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**ALL STARS**
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**BEAUTY QUEEN**
Student Jackie Geist prepares for Miss America Pageant.

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# THE STATE HORNET

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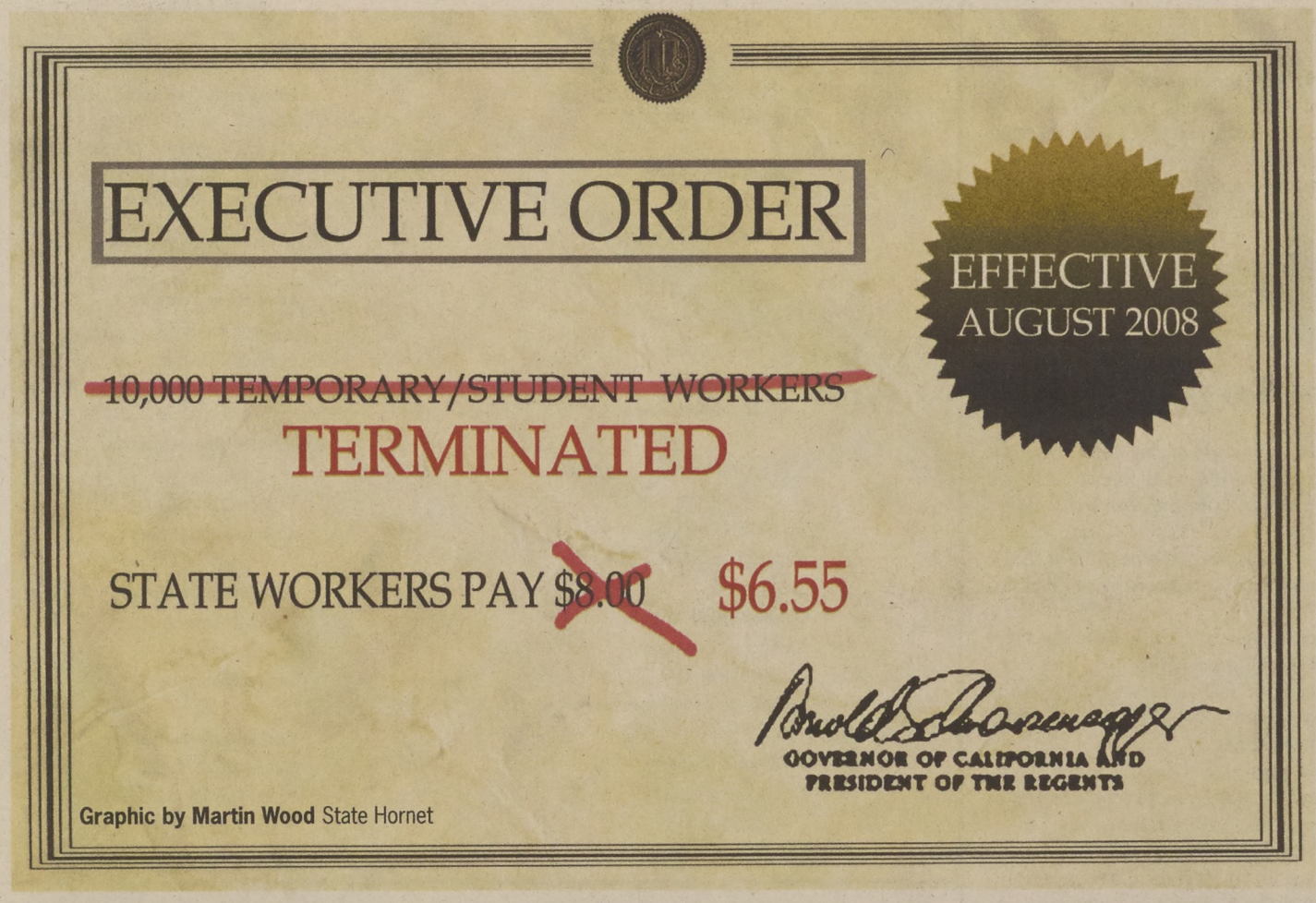
STATE ISSUES | WORKERS LAID OFF

# GOVERNOR CUTS STUDENT JOBS




Graphic by Martin Wood State Hornet

By Natalie Flynn
nflynn@statehornet.com

Hundreds of Sacramento State students were laid off due to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's executive order that cut more than 10,000 of the state's temporary and part-time employees.

The order, issued July 31, was Schwarzenegger's response to the stalled California state budget. Without a state budget in place, funding for the employee salaries is not available, according to the Governor's office.

Sac State's University Enterprises Inc., works with college students who are looking to get jobs in state agencies. Students involved normally hold student-assistant positions where they often help with research and internships.

"We usually have 1,850 to 1,900 (student employees)," said David Levy, marketing director for University Enterprise Inc., a hiring service provided for students in the area. "Now we have 550 less time sheets."

Levy explained the students who no longer are working for the state didn't necessarily lose their jobs completely; they were just told not to work because there was no money to pay them.

Other state programs and services lacking funding include highway improvement projects, Cal Grants to students in graduate programs, and the hiring and promotions of state staff, according to a press release sent out by the state in July.

In response to the executive order, the State Employees International Union Local 1000 has filed four lawsuits against the governor.

Jim Zamora, spokesman for the Service Employees International Union Local 1000, said the union has three legal actions to deal with, but will pair with State Controller John Chiang in his lawsuit against Schwarzenegger.

see **Layoffs** | page A7

"They had a right, but the process to decide who to lay off was not legal. It was not fair and it's not legal. They still got screwed because of this and it's the principle of the matter... it's grossly unfair."

Jim Zamora, spokesman for the Service Employees International Union Local 1000

Francisco Reveles

# Reveles in 2010

By Evelyn Bigelyaizen
ebigelyaizen@statehornet.com

Sacramento State professor Francisco Reveles will serve as an alternative voice to the current candidates in running for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2010.

Reveles serves as the department chair for Educational Leadership & Policy and is the only non-politician running for the office.

The Superintendent serves as the spokesperson and oversees the statewide K-12 education system.

Duties of the office include implementing education policies and standards, providing leadership through mandates and program development, as well as advocating and facilitating efforts to improve education.

The election is nonpartisan, although most previous officeholders have served as prominent Republican or Democratic lawmakers.

Reveles said that as an educational practitioner and university researcher at local, state and national levels, he was compelled to run for the position due to his dissatisfaction with the state of education in California and the political dynamics that drive the current educational paradigm.

"We seem to be locked into what I call a survival mode in education that has not and will not serve our children in the long run," Reveles said.

Although Reveles shares a strong passion for education, his lack of political experience and funding may hinder his chances at winning the election against more heavily financed and recognizable candidates.

Reveles will be running for the position against some well-endorsed and known former statewide office holders.

Candidates who have announced they are running

see **Reveles** | page A8

# Campus, city unite, sign memorandum

By Chloe Daley
cdaley@statehornet.com

For the first time in Sacramento State history the mayor of Sacramento and members of the city manager's office were present at the president's annual address on Aug. 28.

While President Gonzalez addressed issues such as development and the budget, he also signed a memorandum with Mayor Heather Fargo to promote cooperation between the university and city.

"I think what we are doing is formalizing some of the things we were already doing and bringing attention to it," Gonzalez said. "When the city talks about the city they should be talking about one of their biggest assists they have and that's the university."

Gonzalez said 80 percent of students stay local after graduation and contribute to the economy. It only makes sense that the city and university join forces to facilitate learning and supply research opportunities.

"One of the main things we are going to be looking at is our economic development activity ...in terms of what kinds of workforce development we need and what training we need at the university," Fargo said.

Ann Moylan, family and consumer sciences professor, regards an alignment with the city as a great asset.

"I do have some classes that have service learning components and we are always looking for good places for them in the community. That would be fabulous. I think the most positive thing

see **Address** | page A8

Courtesy Photo

**Alexander Gonzalez signed an agreement with Sacramento during his fall address.**

# No budget; school finds funds

By Natalie Flynn
nflynn@statehornet.com

With the California State Budget more than two months late, Sacramento State finance administrators have to find alternative ways to get funding for the university.

Emir Jose Macari, chair of the University Budget Advisory Committee and dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, said the school will not look for private or state loans. Instead, they are pulling from savings and will wait for the state to reimburse the university after the budget passes.

"We have a savings account that generates interest," Macari said. "It's used for operations right now until the budget passes."

Yet, operations are not the school's largest cost according to Suzanne Green, associate vice president of Financial Services at Sacramento State.

Green said the biggest cost for the school is wages and benefits. However, State Controller John Chiang is continuing to pay the salaries and benefits of personnel from the state's treasury.

"As long as the state controller continues to pay the wages and benefits costs, we do not anticipate having to secure other funding," Green said.

This has eliminated the need for Sac State officials to pull funds from other sources for faculty and staff salaries.

Green added the university's operating budget for the 2008-2009 school year is about $250 million.

About two-thirds of that money, $165 million, comes from the state general fund and the remaining one-third is paid for through student registration fees.

However, the money included in the school's budget does not include estimated needs to run programs such as University Enterprises, Inc., Associated Students Inc., the University Union, or other operations such as student housing and parking.

According to a press release from EdSource Inc., the stalled budget looks quite a bit different than the budget proposed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in January.

In his May revised proposal, the governor restored much of the funding for state universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools originally cut in his initial budget plan.

But the revised proposal isn't expected to last long without more changes due to feuding state lawmakers.

"But given state leaders' strong disagreement over whether and how to raise revenues, educators would expect the final budget-whenever that is completed-to look substantially different," according to EdSource.

Despite the grim looking future, Macari said the school still plans to operate like normal without cutting programs, funding, student resources or personnel.

"We are not holding anything back," Macari said. "We are just obviously cautious."

So how often is the school faced with a funding

see **Funding** | page A5

THE STATE HORNET
Issue 1 | Volume 61 | No. 1
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**Mojo**
What will the mojo run into this week?

**Blogs**
Sports, music and more.
blogs.statehornet.com

**Greek Meet**
Cast volunteers from the hit show "Greek and Declare Yourself" assist the campus community with the online voter registration process.
OnlineToday.

**ASI Carnival**
Sac State's student body government will host a carnival on the Library Quad to welcome students back to campus. What festivities will the event hold?
OnlineThursday

# What's new at CSUS

## Improvements and additions to campus include digital freeway sign and a new game room inside the University Union

By Evelyn Bigelyaizen
ebigelyaizen@statehornet.com

Vanessa Acevedo State Hornet

### Sign part of Amber alert

Travelers may now view advertisements and messages on a state-of-the-art, two-sided digital sign displaying the Sacramento State logo off Highway 50, south of the campus.

The sign went into operation on Aug. 5.

University Enterprises, Inc. entered a commercial partnership with Clear Channel Outdoors to create the sign. The sign promotes the University's educational, social and community programs, while generating revenue.

The sign will be a part in the California Amber Alert Program system.

"The standout piece is designed to compliment the University logo and campus," said University Enterprises marketing director David Levy.

The 48-foot wide message board will display images at a rate of eight messages every 64 seconds using the latest LED technology.

Clear Channel Outdoors is funding construction, maintenance and operational costs for the sign through a 25-year term lease agreement with UEI.

"This is a very positive thing because it didn't cost the university a penny," Levy said.

The university will receive a one-time payment of $750,000 from Clear Channel, of which $300,000 will be used to help faculty travel to academic conferences and to conduct research.

UEI will use the remaining $450,000 to provide services that cannot be subsidized by public funds.

President Alexander Gonzales is organizing a committee to decide how the university will allocate the revenue.

### Coin-operated games removed

As of yesterday, gamers may play Xbox 360, Playstation 3 or Nintendo Wii on the newly installed Samsung video consoles in the University Union game room.

The arcade style game machines in the game room were removed and replaced with eight 46-inch screen TVs.

The game room offers six Xbox 360s, five Playstation 3s and one Nintendo Wii.

Students must pay five dollars an hour using their Sacramento State OneCard in order to play any of the game systems.

Claire Padgett State Hornet

Sanchez said the game room is updated to some extent every semester to keep students interested in using it.

Although Sanchez expects students to positively view the game room's upgrade, some students may miss the former arcades.

"I think the new games systems are a great idea, but they should have kept the old-school games as well," said junior graphic design major Zack Proctor.

*Contact Evelyn Bigelyaizen in the News department at (916) 278-7248.*

**The State Hornet | Staff**

**Editor in Chief**
Ashley Evans
(916) 278-6584
editor@statehornet.com

**Print Managing Editor**
Jacqueline Tualla
(916) 278-7300
jtualla@statehornet.com

**Online Managing Editor**
Paul Rios
(916) 278-5590
prios@statehornet.com

**News Editor**
Todd Wilson
(916) 278 - 5148
twilson@statehornet.com

**Online News Editor**
Chloe Daley
(916) 278-7248
cdaley@statehornet.com

**Opinion Editor**
Jordan Guinn
(916) 278-7567
jguinn@statehornet.com

**Sports Editor**
Nick Hunte
(916) 278-5145
nhunte@statehornet.com

**Online Sports Editor**
Christopher Neuschafer
(916) 278-4151
cneuschafer@statehornet.com

**Features Editor**
Adina Zerwig
(916) 278-4155
azerwig@statehornet.com

**Review Editor**
Mikhail Chernyavsky
(916) 278-5567
mchernyavsky@statehornet.com

**Photo Editor**
Claire Padgett
(916) 278-5500
cpadgett@statehornet.com

**Graphics and Multimedia Editor**
Martin Wood
(916) 278-5590
mwood@statehornet.com

**Video Editor**
Huseyin Aksu
(916) 278-5590
haksu@statehornet.com

**Copy Chief**
Princess Calabrese
(916) 278-5585
pcalabrese@statehornet.com

**Advertising Manager**
Diane Kauffman
(916) 278-6583
ads@statehornet.com

**Advertising Representative**
Cullen Riggs
(916) 278-6583
ads@statehornet.com

**Advertising Designer**
Matt Erickson
(916) 278-6583
ads@statehornet.com

**Contact Information**
Main: (916) 278-6584
Fax: (916) 278-5578
The State Hornet
6000 J St. Sacramento, CA 95819

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# Travel agency closes shop, flies from campus

## STA Travel, in an effort to trim operations, closed its doors in the University Union without giving campus officials any notice

By Benjamin Schilter
bschilter@statehornet.com

A locked door and a "We've Moved" sign will greet students and faculty looking to book travel plans for reduced rates on campus this fall.

STA Travel, Sacramento State's on-campus travel agency, closed its doors suddenly June 27, citing a need to consolidate their operations in the wake of a weakening economy.

The dark, hastily packed former office of STA Travel, the latest casualty of the U.S. economic downturn, contrasts the bright lights and lively displays of its nearest University Union neighbors, The Box Center and Round Table at The Hive.

In an effort to restructure its business model, STA Travel shut down 48 offices nationwide; twelve of those in California, including Berkeley, Fullerton, Los Angeles, La Jolla (near UC San Diego), Northridge, San Diego, San Francisco and Santa Barbara, according to an STA Travel press release.

STA Travel also eliminated 200 positions throughout the company, including the corporate offices in Tempe, Ariz. It is unclear how many were laid off from the Sac State office. Offices outside the U.S. were unaffected by closings.

"The student travel industry represents a vibrant niche in the overall U.S. travel market," STA President Scott Hyden said in the press release discussing the closures. "While we regret the impact of this decision on our employees, we are confident that this transformation will support our long-term strategy to provide a richer, multi-channel experience for our customers."

Despite shutting down four-fifths of its retail locations, STA Travel stepped up its online presence to better compete in the student travel marketplace, including trip countdowns, destination weather comparisons, online travel to-do lists, and special online travel offers. STA will continue to assist students with more complex travel needs.

Kristen Celko, vice president of Marketing and e-commerce with STA Travel, said deciding which stores would stay open followed a "strategic criteria" within the company's business plan. Some of the criteria included location, store management's overall experience and local relationships with area businesses.

"It wasn't a matter of one store over the other" in determining which ones were closed, Celko added, referring to the UC Davis and Sac State offices.

STA's sudden closure left Union officials caught off-guard, as they received only one-hour notice before the company closed its doors. The company informed Leslie Davis, executive director of the Union, of the closure the day it occurred.

"They told us: 'STA Travel decided to reduce their operations and focus on their online business,'" Davis said. "They closed 70 stores, and ours was one of them."

She added that the notice "was more than an indication" the office was closing. STA closed down that morning, though it met all its contract obligations set forth by the Union. Davis said that she was sorry to see STA Travel leave Sac State.

As the closure had taken place after the end of the spring semester, few students were made aware of it. Union Director Bill Olmsted speculated that once the fall semester starts and as more students traverse the Union's halls, they will start wondering what happened to the travel agency. This leaves him with the task ofstudying other options to fill what he described as "the most visible piece of vendor real estate we have in this building."

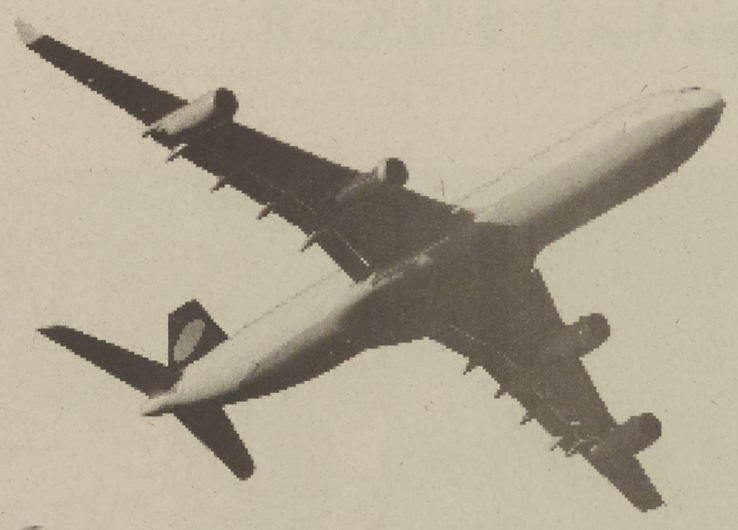
Students often submit suggestions to the Union about vendors and services to be added and improved - or in some cases, removed. Though many comments are directed toward improving current services, no tangible plans are in the works for replacing the travel agency.

"At this point," Olmsted said, "nothing is nailed down to such an extent where we could say, 'Yes, it's going to be a blank and it's going to be open on this day.'"

Although STA's former space has not been specifically identified for a certain purpose, he stressed that any potential tenant would be selected for its ability to most benefit the students, faculty and staff of the Sac State campus. The Union is looking at STA's departure as an opportunity to bring in the next good thing.

"Like with anything else in this building, whatever we put in there, we want it to be a service to students," Olmsted said. "We want it to be something that the students and the campus community find to be of value taking up space in this building."

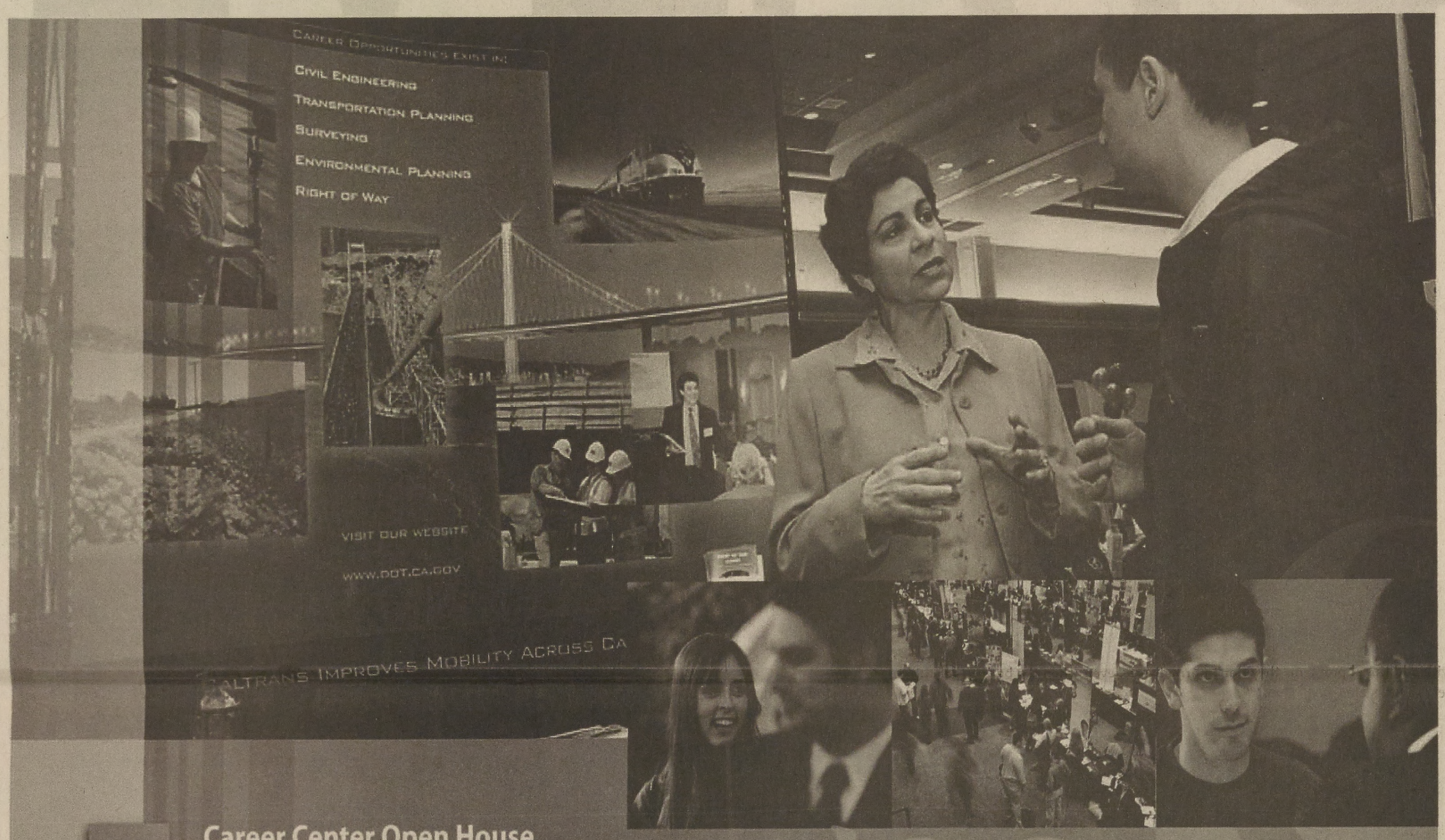
*Contact Benjamin Schilter in News department at (916) 278-7248.*



Graphics by Martin Wood State Hornet

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

# Career Center




## '08 FALL EVENTS

**Sept. 17** — **Career Center Open House**
11 am–1 pm
Career Center, Lassen 2000

**Sept. 29** — **Resume: Extreme Makeover**
12 pm–3 pm
University Union Ballroom

**Oct. 1** — **Fall Career Fair**
10 am–2 pm
University Union Ballroom

**Oct. 8 & 9** — **Mock Interviews**
9 am–4 pm
Career Center, Lassen 2000
Pre-register at the Career Center

**Oct. 24** — **Government Agency Fair**
10 am–2 pm
University Union Ballroom

**Nov. 5** — **Major Fair**
11 am-1 pm
University Union Ballroom

**Nov. 6** — **Etiquette Dinner**
5 pm–8 pm
University Union Restaurant
Pre-register at the Career Center

**Oct. 13-Dec. 12** — **On-Campus Recruitment**
Career Center, Lassen Hall 2000
Pre-register at the Career Center

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# Buildings to meet Lt. Gov.'s energy challenge

By Derek Fleming
dfleming@statehornet.com

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi recently challenged California college campuses to become more energy efficient and sustainable.

"Push the envelope," Garamendi said. "That's what this challenge is all about. Be creative about doing things that haven't been done."

Sustainability has been a goal at Sacramento State for many years and is part of the long term plan for the campus.

Sac State earned an Exemplary Program Award for environmental sustainability goals by having a written declaration that sets standards for educating students and the community in a campus report card issued by The National Wildlife Federation. The agency released its report on Aug. 21 showing participating schools, things they are doing well and areas where improvement needs to be made. More than 1,000 college campuses nation-wide participated.

Ron Richardson, facilities manager at Sac State, said sustainability has been a part of the philosophy on campus for many years. Currently, two building projects are underway on campus.

The new residence hall and the wellness center are both being built with the intention of being sustainable buildings. The rating system for sustainability is known as LEED.

Ratings for LEED fall into four categories: platinum, gold, silver and certified. Both building projects are targeted for silver ratings.

LEED was created to accomplish several goals. These goals are to establish a common standard of measurement, promote integrated, whole building design practices, recognize environmental leadership in the building industry, stimulate green competition, raise consumer awareness and transform the building market.

Garamendi said one of the changes that need to occur is in the planning of new buildings for LEED certification.

"If you are designing a building or landscaping, be bold. Approach with platinum," Garamendi said. "Force the president, the chancellor, the trustees, the legislature, and the governor to say no, we are not going to do that. Right now, it doesn't go that way. It comes down from the top."

"Buildings are the single biggest use of energy in the nation, it's like sixty percent of all energy use," Garamendi said. "It's not cars, it's air conditioners."

Low energy use and modern heating and air-conditioning devices are recognized as being key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Garamendi said heating and cooling are the biggest waste of energy on college campuses.

Richardson said new projects on campus, including the renovation of the old bookstore, will have modern, digital heating and air conditioning equipment that will allow for greater control of the use of energy.

Richardson said some of the future projects that are being discussed might include methods for reclaiming water used for irrigation. This would be accomplished through changing hard surfaces, such as sidewalks, so that the water drains back into the soil. All irrigation on campus is fed through well water.

"When the water used for irrigation runs into storm drains, it is wasted," Richardson said. "If we can get the water to run back into the ground, we can reuse it."

All other water use on campus is fed from the municipal water system. This water is known as gray water once it has been used. There are no current plans to reuse this water. Richardson said there is no funding for projects to reclaim gray water.

Recently, President Bush signed legislation that will create grants for college campuses nationwide to advance sustainability programs and aid in energy-efficiency on campus.

Garamendi said a change in culture must occur before change in practice can happen.

"Students need to seek in a thousand different ways to address the climate change issue," Garamendi said. "In doing so, the solution will be advanced. Students are very powerful and creative. Often, they think of things that no one else has thought about or dismissed because they thought it wouldn't work. The students can make it work."

Associated Students, Inc. runs an aggressive on-campus recycling program. ASI supports the use of paperless meetings, environmental building practices, and community education as strategic objectives.

Reducing paper waste has been a goal at Sac State for many years. In 2004-2005, the Financial Aid office saw an 80 percent drop in spending for postage after switching to the use of e-mail. Richardson said last year the campus recycled 83 percent of solid waste. The majority of students use the Sac State website for enrolling in classes, applying for financial aid, and paying fees. Richardson said last year the campus recycled 83 percent of solid waste.

Garamendi said students can do other things to reduce energy use and aid in sustainability. These include shutting off computers at night, using RT transit and light rail, and changing light bulbs to energy-efficient CFL light bulbs, Garamendi said.

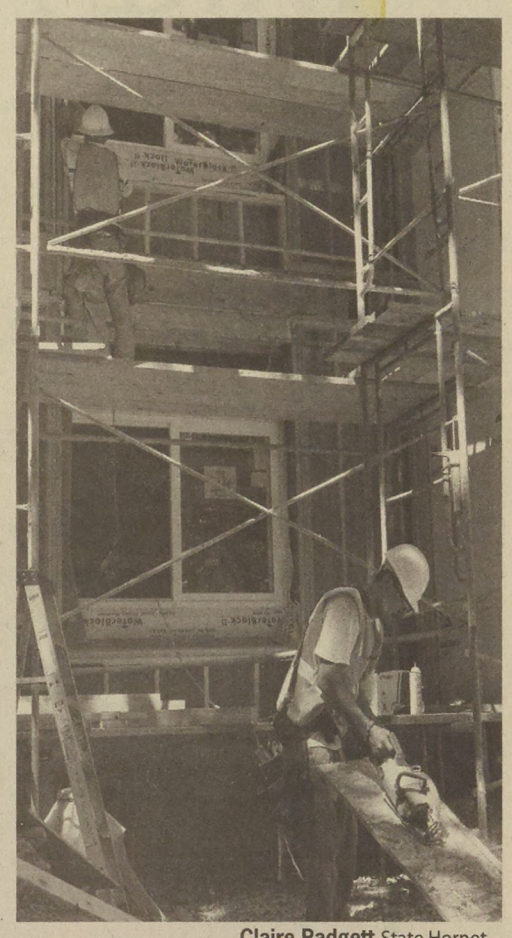
"All these little things add up, even driving a little slower helps," Garamendi said.

Alfredo Rozco, University Transportation and Parking Services assistant director, said there has been an increase in students using RT transit, as well as a spike in ridership on the Hornet Shuttle system.

"Exact numbers are hard to get, because students in the past would get the sticker even if they did not plan to use RT transit," Orozco said. "Now that we are using the plastic sleeves, students who don't plan to use RT don't get the sleeves, making it easier for us to keep track of how many students are using it."

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo was recognized by Garamendi as being a model for other California campuses to follow. Garamendi noted that the student organizations there have banded together to support environmental practices and education.

"The voice of one is magnified by the voices of many," Garamendi said.



Claire Padgett State Hornet

**The new residence hall on campus is being built to meet LEED certification standards.**

*Contact Derek Fleming in News department at (916) 278-7248.*

# **Funding:** Officials use interest from savings to keep operating

Continued | page A1

problem like this year's stalled budget?

The state often starts the fiscal year without an approved budget, Green said. But the budget is usually passed by the legislature and then signed by the governor by this time of year.

It is unusual for the budget to be delayed this long. It is generally signed between late July to mid-August, just in time for the start of the school year.

Since the budget is so late this year, school administrators are faced with additional problems they don't normally see, even when the budget is a little late.

"The university has decided to front the CalGrant financial aid money to the students since the state does not have the authorization to give us that money yet," Green said.

The impact on students has been relatively low so far and finance administrators are hoping to keep the impact on students to a minimum.

"We have been conscientious about minimizing the impact to students and hope we have been successful in making the right budget choices," Green said.

In order to help with that, the school has taken steps to adjust its spending. The other schools in the California State Universities system and Sac State were already anticipating cuts in the state General Fund appropriation, Green said. So right now, each division has taken a budget cut.

Therefore, some students, depending on the division they are in and what that group of administrators does to cut back spending, may see some changes. But they are supposed to be minimal.

Yet despite all the budget changes and stalls the school is currently faced with, administrators are looking to a bright future.

"We have no input, no control, but we hope they can finalize (the budget) quickly," Green said.

Until then, the stalled budget is just something the school will work around.

"It's frustrating waiting for the other shoe to fall," Green said, speaking of the anticipation of finding out how much the school has to work with this year. "We are two months into the fiscal year, and thankfully we are able to work around it."

*Contact Natalie Flynn in the News department at (916) 278-5148.*

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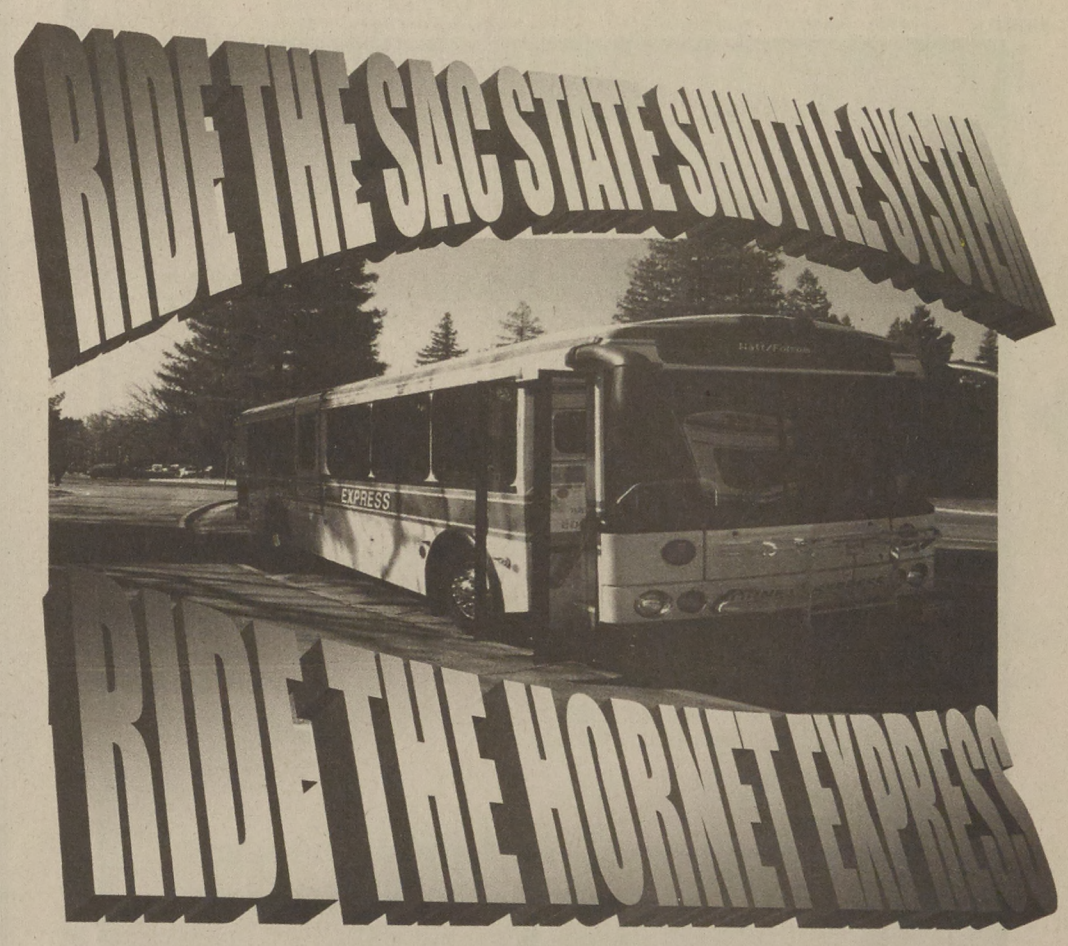


**UTAPS is located at 7667 Folsom Blvd. Hornet Express Shuttle Route 2 has a stop on Hornet Drive at Folsom Blvd. to help accommodate those wishing to visit the UTAPS office. A shuttle route for service directly between Serna Plaza and the UTAPS office will supplement service on Route 2 four times daily leaving Serna plaza at 8:45 am, 10:45 am, 12:45 pm and 2:45 pm.**

**There is a need to discontinue bus stops on Route 4 and Route 5. To view changes www.csus.edu/utaps/hornet_express.htm, call (916) 278-5483 or email shuttle@csus.edu. The Hornet Express is operated by University Transportation and Parking Services (UTAPS), a division of Business Administrative Services at Sac State.**

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SACRAMENTO STATE

# Layoffs: Gov. says job cuts will help state weather budget impasse

Continued | page A1

"If we let the 95,000 states workers in on this lawsuit we can show a real impact," Zamora said.

Levy and University Enterprise Inc. have a different approach. Th ey are keeping their fingers crossed.

"Our hope is that these folks can come back to work," Levy said. "We are hoping all the positions will get re-instated."

Students who have lost jobs are seeking ways to finish paying bills and have money for tuition and books.

But with a slipping economy and thousands of other people who were laid off at the same time, many jobs are already filled and most state agencies are operating under hiring freezes.

Forced to find money for school, students look to unemployment benefits.

"I'm sure people are coming in looking for help," Levy said. "But filing for unemployment insurance is one way they are muddling through this."

For now, the California state offi ce seeing the most dramatic changes due to staff layoffs is the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Th e DMV, in the early 1990s, hired over 1,000 intermittent employees to help with the long lines and complications due to lack of staff.

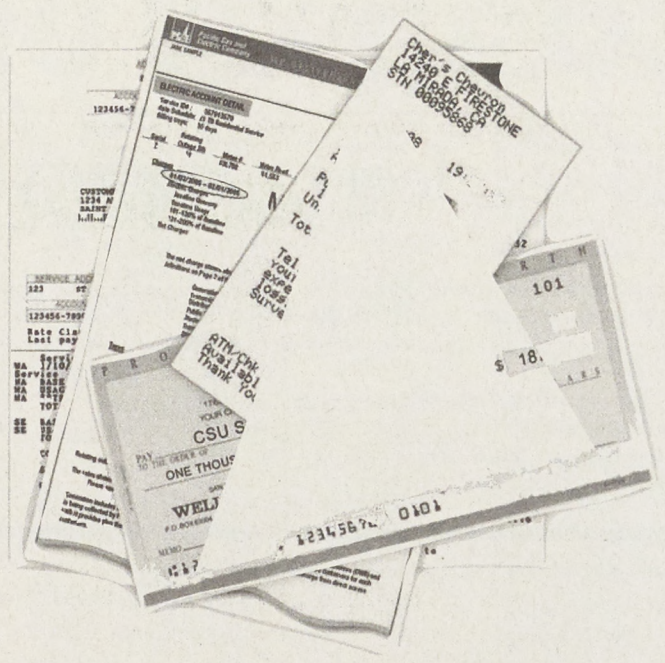
Th ese employees, some students, worked on a full or part-time basis with no guarantee of a permanent position.

Th ey were some of the first to receive notices about the cuts and many were not given their last check; the first of three violations made by the state.

Zamora said another violation the union is headed to court over is the firing process.

"Th ey had a right, but the pro cess to decide who to lay-off was not legal," Zamora said. "It was not fair and it's not legal."

He explained many students and other part-time employees the union represents were hired under specific terms such as only for the summer.



**Graphic by Martin Wood** State Hornet

Th e state was in violation of its own legal binds because contracts were terminated before the agreed upon amount of employment finished.

Although the money per employee amounts to about $4 in savings for the state, the union is fighting over the unfairness of the cuts.

"Th ey still got screwed because of this and it's the principle of the matter … it's grossly unfair," Zamora said.

In addition to laying off hundreds of state employees, the governor's executive order also sets state employees' wages at $6.55 per hour, the federal minimum wage rate. Th is is $1.05 lower than the state's minimum wage.

Schwarzenegger apologized to the state employees affected by the cuts because he said many were already struggling to make enough during diffi cult times. But he said he has no choice due to the lack of a budget.

California's fiscal year began July 1, and though the state budget has been late multiple times, this is the latest it has been in some time.

Passing of the budget usually occurs after much debate about spending, but because of a political feud between many Democrats and Republicans in the legislature, it's been slower than usual.

"Th e Democrats and Republicans can't get along," said Emir Jose Macari, chair of Sac State's University Budget Advisory Committee and dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences. "And, whenever there is a budget that needs to be dealt with, there is always politics involved."

However, State Controller Chiang refuses to cut the wages saying the state has enough money to pay its bills through September.

Chiang, with hundreds of laid off state employees and their families supporting him, will face the governor in court in the next few weeks.

◂◂◂◂◂

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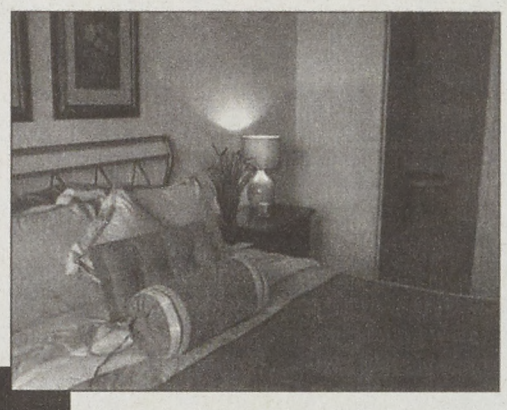

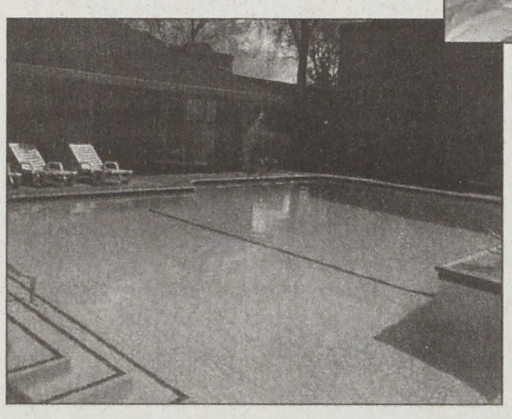

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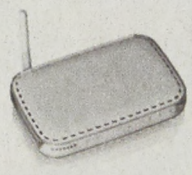

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# Reveles: He believes educational experience helps his candidacy

Continued | page A1

so far include, Senator Tom Torlakson (D-Antioch), State Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero (D-East Los Angeles), and Assemblywoman Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach).

Executive Director for the Center for California Studies at Sac State, Tim Hodson, said excessive funding and endorsements are vital in this type of campaign.

"If you cannot raise 2 to 3 million dollars then you are not a viable statewide candidate," Hodson said.

Despite these disadvantages, Reveles's colleagues believe his role as an experienced educator gives him a better understanding of core education principles than a politician.

Communication studies professor Barbara O'Connor said some politicians might not grasp the essential needs of students since they do not have hands-on experience in a K-12 education environment.

"They don't have a real sense of what it's like in a classroom," O'Connor said.

Reveles has a strong leadership background and has worked with a wide variety of children including gang members and dropouts.

Associate professor for educational administration and policy studies Hazel Mahone said Reveles's experience working directly in education may give him a great deal of credibility.

"Educators already have a fundamental understanding of what determines good and bad education," Mahone said.

She said Reveles's experience, as a teacher, principal, university professor and the department chair of the Sac State educational leadership program may bring needed change to the position of state superintendent.

Mahone believes his innovative nature will bring a lot of insight to the position.

Reveles has created an agenda for primary areas he would like to target if elected State Superintendent.

His agenda includes addressing the dropout issue and devising ways to decrease the dropout rate among students.

Reveles said he desires to continue working to adhere to and maintain high educational standards, as well as accurate data gathering and assessment.

He also emphasized the need to continue to educate and financially support teachers.

Finally, he said he would like to focus on leading and facilitating the dissemination of the best practices in the prevention of school violence and highlight interventions, especially those addressing gang violence.

Reveles said that through 30 years of working with community leaders and educators from diverse cultures and socio-economics levels, he has gained a valuable perspective as the only candidate with the practical and sustained experience to make a real difference.

"Dr. Reveles is a 21st Century educator," Mahone said. "He is bilingual, can relate to all groups and realizes that demographic changes require bold leadership for all citizens.

◂◂ ◂◂ ◂◂

*Contact Evelyn Bigelyaizen in the News department at (916) 278-5148.*

# Address: Mayor feels people should see, feel university's presence

Continued | page A1

of the address is to have the city here," Moylan said.

Fargo said students can make a difference. Internships for students with community businesses and public services could prepare students better for their future vocations and solve problems in the process.

"We have real life examples of everything you are studying here, what you are learning and how you are going to apply it when you get out," Fargo said.

In 2004 the City of Sacramento set out the 2030 general plan to be "the most livable city in America." The same year Sac State began Destination 2010 to transform the campus into a place for students seeking higher education and a vibrant campus life.

The city and university already work together extensively; the memorandum encourages and formalizes the relationship.

Last year a Sac State English class participated in three projects working with the city, one involving work on a community website and another doing research regarding the city's homeless population.

Cassandra Jennings, assistant city manager for Sacramento, hopes to see more partnerships like this.

"Not only were we able to take advantage of the student energy and learning, they were more connected to the community," Jennings said. "They were so energized about the homeless population and what the city is doing."

Fargo said the city hopes to work with the university regarding residential housing close to campus for students and more public transportation options for students.

"Part of what I'm trying to do is be able to tell we have students in town. If you are on campus you know, but once you get off you don't get a university feel," Fargo said.

During his address Gonzalez also allayed fears about the budget and said he will be implementing the University Budget Advisory Committee's (UBAC) recommendations for this year.

"They went through and reviewed all the budgets expenditures, how the budget process works, they made recommendations," Gonzalez said. "At this point everyone has a horse in the race. It's not people behind close doors saying 'academic affairs gets this much, student affairs that.'"

Bruce Bikle, faculty senate chair, said there is a much better sense of cooperation between administration and the faculty senate.

"Many more things are open now. The work that UBAC is doing is astounding."

Gonzalez said he has made sure he has been transparent with everything regarding budgets and wants everything out in the open. He said he is confident that though the cuts will not be even across the board, the university will pull together despite the difficult economic times.

While Destination 2010 approaches, many new campus improvements are completed or in stages. The Eli and Edythe Broad Field House is open and the Recreation and Wellness Center is scheduled to open September 2010.

But appearances may deceive. While new buildings appear on campus, some faculty worry that what is going on the classrooms shows the state of the university.

"The community sees we are getting this new wellness center and new resident halls and all these things that are flashy and wonderful. I am really more concerned about when you go into the classroom, are you still seeing the struggle?" Moylan said.

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EDITORIAL

# Two steps forward and no steps back

There's a reason things feel unusual at Sacramento State this semester - things are changing for the better. Fees will still go up and classes will still be cut, but there is hope for the first time in years.

Finally, we are on the right track when it comes to working as one unit.

Alexander Gonzalez gave his fall address to a hoard of teachers and a smattering of students on Thursday. Which is truly unfortunate, considering how everyone who had anything to do with Thursday's festivities did it for the betterment of the future of Sac State students.

Mayor Heather Fargo was there and spoke highly of both Sac State as an institution, as well as its growth over the past few years. She complimented the energy and enthusiasm inside the University Union and the improvements to parking, in addition to the look and feel of the campus.

"It's much better for those of us who just visit sometimes," Fargo said.

It's better for those of us who go here, too.

As recently as 18 months ago, this campus was an emotional minefield. Threats of a faculty walkout and a vote of no confidence in Gonzalez dominated classrooms . Now, we have turned a corner and are working together.

Not everything here at Sac State is perfect. We are still light years away from completing all we need to accomplish, such as improving our graduation and retention rates. However, being proud of the transition this campus has undergone is not a case of wild optimism or seeing things through rose-colored glasses. It's real. People are happy and excited to be here.

Sac State has tried hard to shake its reputation as a commuter campus in a second-tier city. The city of Sacramento is desperately trying to act like the capital of the world's seventh largest economy and improve its image as well. Thursday's speech was one example of both entities moving toward their collective goals in unison.

The highlight of the address was the signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding," a six-point document that outlines plans to improve communication between the city and the university.

Fargo said that the city and university working together would help prepare graduates' transition into the workforce and offer internship opportunities to students.

"We have real-life examples of everything you learn here," Fargo said.

Gonzalez said after the address that he is happy about the cooperation between faculty and administration and that everyone agrees on moving forward. When he speaks about the Recreation and Wellness Center, a facility that will contain swimming pools and a rock-climbing wall, he displays genuine excitement.

"It's going to revolutionize how we care for our students. You can use it or not use it, but you're going to be able to be proud and say, 'Look at my campus,'" Gonzalez said.

Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Bikle said that the transparency that Sac State has recently adopted has helped ease tensions on campus and has helped mend fences between faculty and administrators.

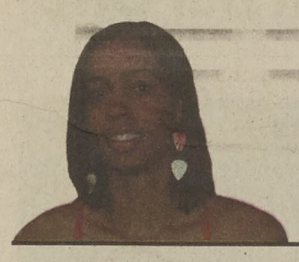
"You may not agree with what's going on, but at least you know what's going on," Bikle said.

One of Bikle's post-address comments regarding campus unity was stunningly profound in its simplicity and honesty.

"I know we are talking better. I know we are doing a better job of listening to each other."

We really are, and we can't stop now.

# Students: The biggest losers in budget crisis



Crystal Kirk

On July 31 Gov. Schwarzenegger signed his executive order that reduced the salaries of state workers to federal minimum wage and left thousands of student assistants without a job. This action was viewed as a political move by the governor to force the hands of the state legislature to sign the overdue budget.

When we think of California's financial problems, the first image that comes to mind is of screaming state workers in their purple union T-shirts storming the steps of the Capitol. Of course the thought of making only $6.55 an hour is unthinkable to anyone living in high-priced California.

The truth to the federal minimum wage scare is that no state workers are actually in danger of not receiving their full-paychecks. The Golden 1 Credit Union and many other financial institutions offer no interest loans to cover the difference in pay until the budget is passed. So what is all the fuss about?

I would have taken that option over what really happened to many student assistants, including myself, on the day the executive order was signed. Ten minutes before my scheduled time to leave, I was told not to come in to work the next day. With the budget still unsigned that one day has turned into weeks with no foreseeable end in sight.

Politicians claim to have the interest of the middle class at heart. Tuition was raised this semester and now they take our jobs. I guess college students are not an important enough segment of the population.

Or maybe we are just not loud enough. We could learn something from those annoying state workers in their matching T-shirts. Who knew all you need is a bulk order of colorful shirts and a silkscreen? Is that all it takes to get the state government to do what is right for us and our futures?

I vote for a green T-shirt.

*Contact Crystal Kirk in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.*

**HornetOpinion**

**ONLINE AT WWW.STATEHORNET.COM**

Columnists Sarah Kay Hannon and Kyle Kersher recap the Olympic Games in Beijing, China. Kyle reivews the action and the historical significance of the games, Sarah marvels at the ineptitude of the broadcasters and commentators during the spectacle.

# A struggle for equality

Hillary Geiger

Historically, women have been classified as inferior to men in society. But, which is truly the inferior sex?

Our place in society has also been viewed as in the home and not in the workplace. For some people this view still remains.

Women have fought for their civil rights throughout the American generations. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was signed into law granting women the right to vote. This right was the primary goal of the National Woman Suffrage Association, founded by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1869.

Women were mostly seen as the givers of life until the gaining use of contraceptives, giving more choices for women to wait to start a family and have careers and an education. Contraceptives freed women from the pressure of becoming wives and mothers and gave way for dreams and ambitions.

In 1903, the National Women's Trade Union League was established to advocate for improved wages and working conditions for women. In 1960, the Food and Drug Administration approved birth control pills.

Through the growing rate of contraceptives, more women were seen in the workplace and thus new laws had to be passed to accommodate to this growth. In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to pay a woman less than what a man would receive for the same job.

These rights that women have had to fight for were sought out through the approval of men. Why? Is it because our country was founded by men, not women? And if given the right to explore unmarked territories in history, would a woman have been able to find America before a man?

That very fact might have changed the course of history. When did women become the inferior sex?

Women give men life and yet they are viewed as less.

What have men fought for that doesn't pertain to war and territories? Nothing has been given to women on a silver platter. It feels like an ongoing fight between genders that might never be settled.

Today, we fight human papillomavirus. There are more than 100 different strains or types and more than 30 of these viruses are sexually transmitted. There is no way to tell who or what a woman can develop it from. There is no test for men with this virus and a woman can develop it on her own after becoming sexually active.

This virus can also linger on the skin of the penis, vulva (area outside the vagina), or anus, and the linings of the vagina, cervix or rectum for years without signs. This virus has had no effect on men, whereas women can develop cervical cancer.

There is no general test for HPV but it can be identified through PAP tests. According to Merick & Co., Inc.,Gardasil is the only cervical cancer vaccine that helps protect against four types of high-risk HPV(6, 11, 16, 18).

Women have proven throughout history to overcome and preserver through challenges before them. This not only is seen with rights obtained and fought for, but now as new developments form so do new challenges to overcome. Women are strong creatures and are rarely seen as such, even with the coming of generations and the expansion of ideas.

But, which is the weaker sex? Or are they equal in strength in their own unique characteristics?

*Contact Hillary Geiger in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.*

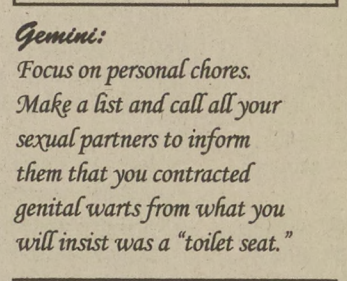
# HOROSCOPE

## WE KNOW THE FUTURE - SUCKS TO BE YOU.

***If today is your birthday:***
*You're probably the only one who cares. View news articles from previous years to see what atrocities were inflicted upon the planet on this day besides your birth.*

***Aries:***
*Ride the ruby-studded ram to Mars as an example to others. Only half-wits who think that their birthday defines their personality know exactly what this means.*

***Taurus:***
*We wish you didn't have to hear this from us: Forces beyond your control will conspire to ensure you that these next 30 days will be an unstoppable hell.*

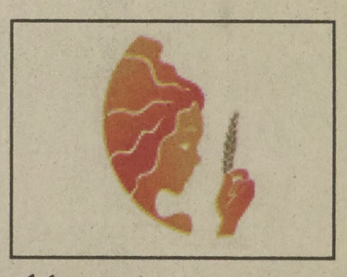


***Gemini:***
*Focus on personal chores. Make a list and call all your sexual partners to inform them that you contracted genital warts from what you will insist was a "toilet seat."*

***Cancer:***
*You will read the wrong horoscope but it will apply anyway. At this point you will realize what garbage astrology is.*

***Leo:***
*Your sign is notoriously fortunate. Just think of how lucky the infants who are born hooked on crack or infected with AIDS between July 23 and Aug. 22 are.*

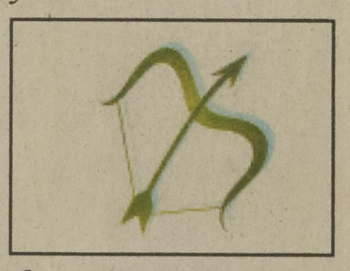
***Virgo:***
*You're prissy and small-minded. That's why no one enjoys being around you. They're not jealous.*



***Libra:***
*That homely platonic friend is actually your perfect match. Continue with your unprotected sexual relations with anonymous partners, he/she will wait for you.*

***Scorpio:***
*You will make a trip to a far away and mysterious land. Unfortunately, you were kidnapped and will be butchered once you reach your destination.*

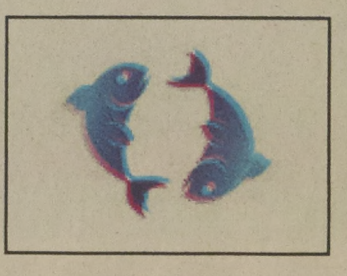
***Sagittarius:***
*You tire easily but you want to make a difference in the world. Put a funny video on your MySpace page and call it a day.*



***Capricorn:***
*Strong and self-reliant, you pride yourself on emptying your own colostomy bag.*

***Aquarius:***
*You're a trendsetter. Because of you, statutory rape and lewd conduct statutes will be reformed.*

***Pisces:***
*Wash your clothes in near boiling water but take cold showers. Stay indoors and avoid eye contact from all life forms. Heed the words of the writers on this one.*



GUEST COLUMN

# New beginnings at Sac State

Alexander Gonzalez

Welcome to the fall 2008 semester. These are challenging and exciting times on campus, in the nation and throughout the world. We are all confronting the economic realities in our everyday lives. We drive by gas stations and are happy when we see gas at $4 a gallon. The once green lawns of our foreclosed neighbors are brown and dying as the sub-prime housing crisis hits home.

But we are confronting these challenges head on, and I'd like to give you a piece of advice: stay on track. Getting a college degree is one of the most worthwhile goals you will ever complete. The CSU graduates 90,000 people into the workforce each year, and provides most of the state's teachers, nurses, business professionals and engineers.

These are among the many professions that move California forward and are in greater demand each year. Employers rely on Sacramento State to provide the educated professionals who help drive our economy and keep our quality of life strong. And 80 percent of local business leaders say the employment pool is better because of the university.

We're welcoming about 50 new faculty members to the campus who, along with the rest of our dedicated faculty, are enthusiastic and ready to work with you.

When you see me walking around the campus, please say hello. This is an open invitation to share your concerns and your questions with me. If I don't see you on campus, visit www.csus.edu/askthepresident and send in your questions.

Have a great semester. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Guest column by Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Circus is far from 'Greatest Show'

For many, the circus is fun, safe entertainment families and children can enjoy. For all of us who have been educated on the mistreatment of their performing animals, we would say that the circus is far from being the greatest show on earth.

As an animal lover, and animal rights activist, I feel it is my duty to inform the uninformed public what the circus does not want us to know: the dark, horrifying truth of what really goes on behind the scenes.

We have all been amazed by the circus' ability to train ferocious tigers to jump through hoops, 7,000-pound elephants to stand on two legs, large bears to ride unicycles… But how exactly did these naturally, wild animals learn to be so obedient? Only a training method stronger than the animals themselves could have been used.

The truth is, these innocent animals are unwillingly forced to perform night, after night, after night. While circuses may claim that these tricks are natural, and performed in their natural habitat, we all know elephants don't just stand on their heads in the wild. Many of the tricks they are taught are unnatural, and even painful for these creatures.

Trainers will use bull hooks (a 2-3 foot long stick with sharp metal attached at the top), or other instruments to beat, hit, poke, strike, and shock these animals until they obey (these are not the only ways they are physically beaten).

Baby elephants are separated from their mothers at an extremely young age, to be "trained" to perform for the circus. Meanwhile, in the wild, they do not stop feeding from their mother's until they are roughly four years old.

The circus spends 11 months of the year traveling.

The conditions in which the animals are kept during the traveling periods are astonishing and simply cruel. Elephants are squeezed in, side-by-side, chained to the leg. Because there is minimal space, it is almost impossible for them to lie down. If they are lucky to be able to lie down, they are left to lie in their own waste with no food or water for many consecutive hours.

This not only goes for the elephants, but for all of the circus animals. In their own natural habitats, these precious creatures are born free, roam freely, rest, and feed as often as they need to.

Is it right for us, as the audience, to keep on paying the circus to promote this unfair and disgusting abuse? Do you think children should be attending these events, when we now know what goes on under the big top? Shouldn't we, as conscious citizens put an end to this cruelty?

The self-proclaimed "Greatest Show on Earth", Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, will be performing, here, in Sacramento from September 11 to September 14.

We may not be able to put a stop to this unfortunate situation right away, but there are many things we can do to help. Most importantly, DO NOT ATTEND A CIRCUS THAT USES ANIMALS.

Inform your family, friends and anybody you can about the abuse that goes on in the circus. Write letters to your local newspapers and television stations or anywhere that may get awareness to the public. Become an advocate.

As P.T. Barnum once said, "There is a sucker born every minute." Do not let yourselves become one of Barnum's so-called "suckers".

*Letter to the Editor by Catherine Dunn.*
*Letters welcome at opinion@statehornet.com*

# A love-hate relationship

Vanessa Guerrero

Crack in a portable container can best define the hundreds of energy drink labels out in the market today. After gulping down the different flavors of Rockstar, Redbull, Monster and many more, the excited result is the same: a caffeine rush that lasts for hours and cannot be obtained by a simple cup of coffee.

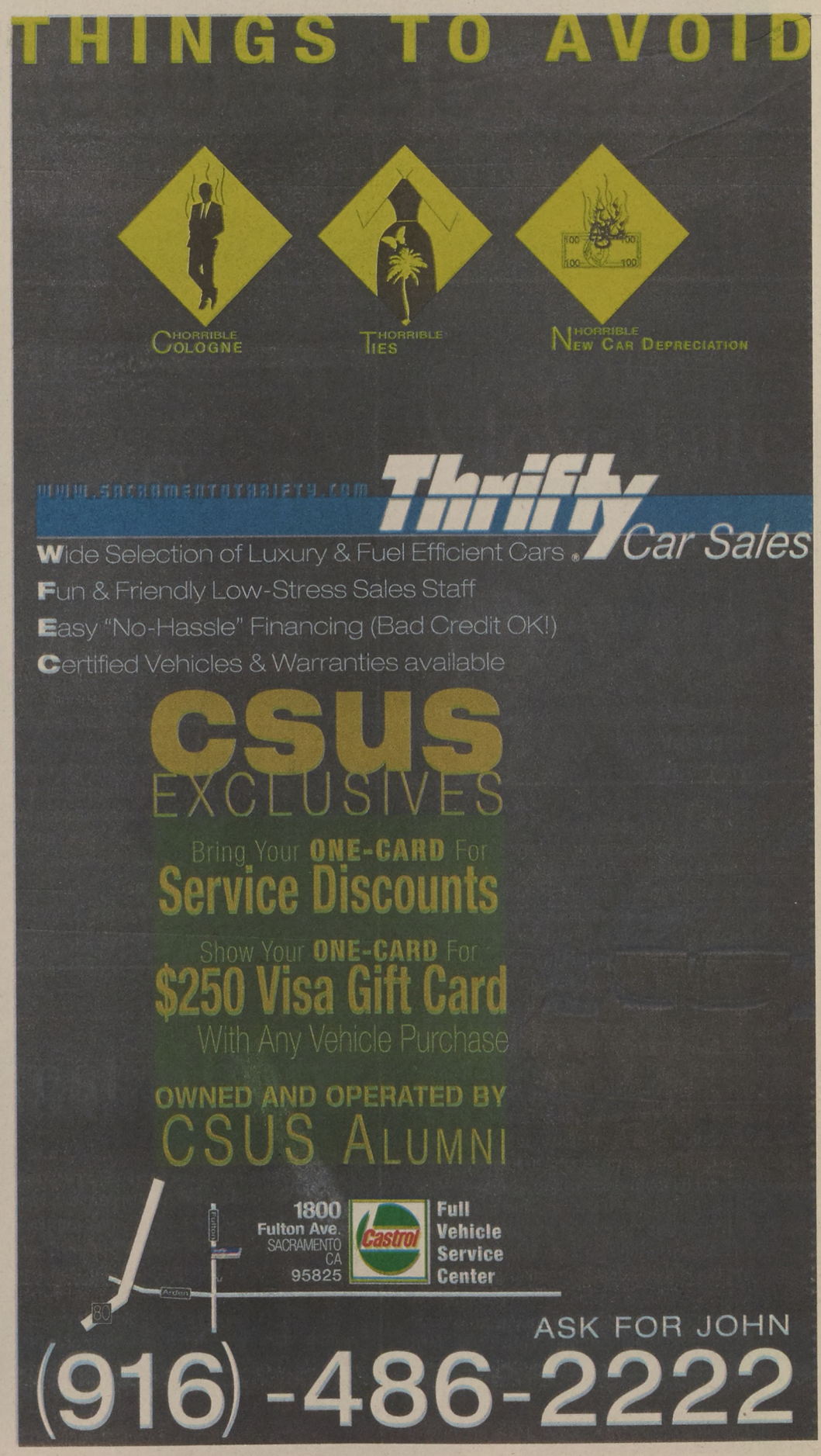
Some students claim energy drinks are great for last minute cramming study sessions, the rush for confidence before a class presentation and as a mixed drink at a bar. Many believe however, that harmful long-term and short-term effects will eventually result amongst the thousands of teenagers and young adults who are "addicted" to energy boost drinks.

Studies performed at Brown University regarding caffeine and energy boosting drugs, noted that the caffeine content in energy drinks like Redbull, Venom and Whopass exceed the amount of 80 mg. They claim the effects of caffeine vary amongst the individual, however Brown's study does not decipher the myths that say energy drinks cause sterility, stomach ulcers, heart disease, memory loss and high blood pressure. In their study they recommend not to consume while excercising, mixing with alcohol or to consider energy drinks as a natural vitamin substance.

For the full-time college student working two jobs to get by, a Redbull might come in handy for to get the extra punch from school to work and back home to study all night. Whatever the reason behind the consumption of stimulant drinks, many can assess the fact that they provide a fast rush to get the work done when necessary, however the only known downfall of consuming such beverages is when "coming down" from the effects. Losing the rush sensation can cause an individual to feel sleepy, moody and the need for another to feel the rush of energy once more.

*Contact Vanessa Guerrero in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.*

## STATE HORNET OPINION: MORE SNIDE AND HURTFUL THAN EVER BEFORE



**"I think we have the potential to do as well as last year. Most of the girls and myself included want to get another chance in the NCAA Tournament."**

**Randy Denini,** women's soccer coach

# Hornets earn honors

**Graphic by Martin Wood** State Hornet

BY FELIPE MOLINA
fmolina@statehornet.com

During the 2007-08 school year Sacramento State's athletics program shined as it won eight conference championships, and was the overwhelming winner of the Big Sky Conference Women's All-Sport Trophy. These accomplishments did not go unnoticed, as Sac State's athletics program was selected as the 36th-best in Division I athletics by Sports Illustrated's website (SI.com). Sacramento was ranked higher than top schools Alabama, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, and Louisville.

"I was very pleased with our department," Director of Athletics Terry Wanless said. "I look at it (like) we are the 36th most successful program in the nation."

To rank the schools, SI.com came up with a three-pronged formula that puts the emphasis on national titles, top 30 finishes and conference championships. Points were awarded for each category, national titles were worth 10 points each, three points for each conference championship and an extra point for winning the season-ending conference tournament and two points for each top 30 finish. Sacramento State finished with 19 points putting them in a tie with Minnesota for 36th place.

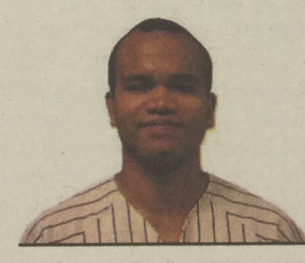
"I was just ecstatic, I was surprised because when you tend to think of being in the likes of the schools that were listed, those are hallmark institutions with hallmark athletic programs steep in rich tradition. It was nice to be recognized," softball coach Kathy Strahan said.

The majority of Sacramento's points derived from their women's sports programs as they won the Big Sky Conference Women's All-Sport Trophy winning five of the eight conference championships. No other team won more than one.

Leading the way was Sac State's volleyball team, who once again won another Big Sky Conference Championship, making it its eighth straight conference championship. The team finished the season with an overall record of 29-8 and a Big Sky record of 13-3. The team also qualified for the NCAA Tournament, where it advanced to the second round.

see **SI** | page B2

# Win or go home



**Nick Hunte**
**Sports Editor**

Welcome to the first installment of Win or Go Home, a weekly column examining current events going on in the professional sports world. My topic will be MLB since the season is closing out and the playoffs are coming up.

Well first off, I'm glad that we all went through an exciting baseball season without any BALCO or steroid drama. It was really disheartening to watch the reputation of America's favorite pastime become jeopardized because of cheating players. With the Mitchell Report fiasco dying down, for now at least (while Roger Clemons is still sitting at home trying to make his own report) I can say that we went through a relatively "cleansed" baseball season so far, which is what President George W. Bush promised a few months back in April (and the promise was actually made).

Now, on to who's hot, who's not and what the playoffs will possibly look like. Leading the American League Western Division are the Los Angeles Angels, who have been on somewhat of a slump lately. The Angels do have a good share of star players like Vladimir Guerrero (who's tearing up the joint by leading the team in batting averages, home runs, RBI's and runs scored), Torri Hunter, Mark Teixeira and star closer Francisco Rodriguez (a.k.a. K-Rod). While they are all good in the clutch, it doesn't seem like everyone else on the team is and that can cause problems for them in the post season.

One team that has made a comeback this season is the Chicago Cubs over in the National League Central Division. Although they have had their share of slumps and losing streaks, the Cubs have still managed to stay on top consistently and led their division throughout most of the season. Hopefully that's something that actually makes manager Lou Piniella happy.

The biggest surprise of the season though is the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. They went from being one of the worst baseball teams season after season (and a popular punch line for David Letterman) to having one of the best records

see **Column** | page B3

# Team determined for success, glory

BY TAYLOR COLLIS
tcollis@statehornet.com

Football season is starting up again and the Hornets have been preparing throughout the summer for another exciting season and according to head coach Marshall Sperbeck, the team has improved since last season and has become more disciplined.

"The offense has improved and the defense has a lot of energy and passion," stated Sperbeck.

According to the 2008 Hornet Football Media Guide, this season the Hornets have lost a few players on the defense line and to fill those spots junior Bill Sherman will be playing defensive tackle along with senior John Garth converted from the offensive line. Sherman has experience from the last two seasons and Garth switched from the offense and defense line throughout the seasons depending on the need. Senior Kevin Hall is playing this year after recovering from a back injury for the past three years.

Kevin Davis is leading the defensive backs with five years of seniority and will help the young talent in the defensive secondary to grow into a strong backfield. New to the safety position are junior Dorian Brown and senior Matt Evans. They both are in the process of replacing Brett Webber and Brent Shelton for starting positions.

As far as linebackers go, the Hornets are proud to have the strong trio back in action. The trio includes middle lineman Cyrus Mulitalo, strong-side lineman Mike Brannon and weak-side lineman Mike Hickman. According to the Media Guide, these three linemen combined tackles were 245 last season. This three-headed monster will be tough to beat.

This season, Sperbeck is focusing more on his team than his opponents and hopes that this new method can improve the team as a whole

"We have things we need to work on and we will focus on us getting better as a team first," said Sperbeck.

The offense has a few players from last season and a few new faces. The running backs position has incoming freshmen who are known for the numbers they posted in high school. This includes Andre Island, Jake Croxdale and Anthony Biasi, according to the Media Guide. All of these men will be great assets to the team this season.

Two veterans returning to the offensive line are senior Ray Navar playing tackle and junior Matt Lemley playing guard. They both have a lot of experience and earned all-Big Sky honors last season, according to the Media Guide.

New to the team is quarterback Mcleod Bethel-Thompson, who transferred from University of California, Los Angeles last semester. He chose to come join the Hornets because of better opportunities here, according to Sperbeck.

"Los Angeles is a different world. I'm

see **Football** | page B3

**Claire Padgett** State Hornet

**Pre-season practice began on Aug. 4 and continued through Friday, the day before the team played its first game.**

# New dynamics, roster

**Ruben Volta**

**Sarah Chlebana**

BY CHRISTOPHER NEUSCHAFER
cneuschafer@statehornet.com

For the past 11 years Debby Colberg has taken the Hornet women's volleyball team to the Big Sky Conference. After 32 years of service as head coach, she announced her retirement last August. Now that she has retired and assistant coach Ruben Volta has taken the mantle, will the Hornets be able to uphold their championship title?

During her service, Colberg had 799 victories, two national titles, 17 conference championships and 19 NCAA Tournament appearances. She has also been awarded 15 coach of the year awards.

"I really have no words of wisdom for Ruben," Colberg said. "He and I have coached together for several years and have become friends. He is most definitely a very capable coach in his own right."

Volta, a Sacramento State graduate, starred for the Hornet men's volleyball club team, which went undefeated and won the National Club Championship in 1995. Volta was awarded All-American Honors as a setter. In 1995 he opened the High Voltage Volleyball Facility in Sacramento and began running a junior volleyball league.

Some of his former club players with High Voltage included past Hornets Sandra Bandimere, Tasman Dwyer, Kazmiera Imrie, Jackie Coudert and Brenda Moorlag. In addition, recently expired Sac State middle hitter and first team all-Big Sky selection Michelle Franz.

After the 2007 season, five senior starters left the program along with Colberg, leaving Volta with a fresh team hurtling into the Fall 2008 season opener. Middle hitters Lindsay Haupt and Michelle Franz, as well as outside hitters Missie Stidham and Jennifer Ferguson all had their eligibility expire last year forcing them off of the team.

see **Volleyball** | page B5

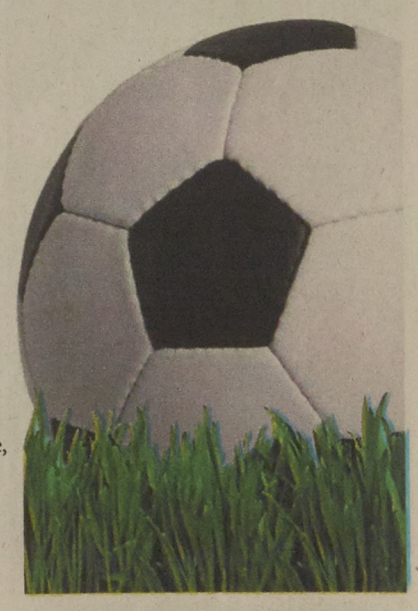
# Women's soccer strives to repeat prior success

BY RONNIE NURSS
rnurss@statehornet.com

The Sacramento State women's soccer team is looking to win big this year by adding seven new players. Six new incoming freshmen with impressive high school credentials from all around California and one new transfer from San Diego State. These players will offer versatility across the pitch, at virtually every position.

Sac State will look to Jessica Gregory to bolster its attack for the upcoming season. Hailing from nearby Bradshaw Christian High School, Gregory excelled in soccer and basketball, achieving great success in both sports. During the fall and winter, Gregory help lifted the Lion's basketball team to back-to-back Sacramento Metropolitan Athletic League titles in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

Gregory's expertise in basketball also compliments her soccer game, where she scorched the nets as she tallied 31 goals and four assists during her senior year. Gregory translated her high school success to her club soccer career as well. Competing for the San Juan



see **Soccer** | page B5

# SI: Eight teams acknowledged

"I was very pleased with our deparment."
**Terry Wanless,** director of athletics

**Continued | page B1**

"We had a really good season last year," new volleyball head coach, Ruben Volta said, who was an assistant coach last season. "It was nice for our university to get some recognition."

Th e volleyball team lost one of its best senior classes in school history, but it is returning seven players from last season's squad, including two starters. Th is season will also mark the changing of the guard as new head coach Ruben Volta takes the helm. In the preseason coaches poll, the team was selected to finish second in the conference.

"I think we're going to have to work a little harder than we did last season," senior setter Rose Burke said. "But I'm confident that the people that are returning that weren't getting playing time last year are ready to go."

Th e soccer team finished the year with their best record in school history going 12-4-5 overall. Th e soccer team also went unbeaten in the Big Sky regular season posting a record of 4-0-3. Also with wins over Portland State and Northern Colorado in the conference tournament, the team picked up the conference's automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament where they lost in the first round to top seeded Stanford.

"It was an accumulation of a couple of great recruiting classes," women's soccer head coach Randy Dedini said. "Th e chemistry was fantastic."

Looking ahead at the upcoming season, the Big Sky Conference Preseason Coaches Poll has Sacramento finishing first. Th e team is returning six all-confer ence players and 8-of-11 starters from last year's championship squad. Also returning to the team after a season ending knee injury last year, is the 2006 team's leading scorer Kayelyn Satkowski.

"I think we have the potential to do as well as last year," Dedini said. "Most of the girls and myself included, our main goal is to get another chance in the NCAA Tournament."

Another team that had a big season was the softball team, who made its first appearance in 13 years in the NCAA Regional. After winning eight of its final 10 games, the Hornets softball team posted a 32-21 overall record and a 14-6 record in the Pacific Coast Softball Conference, winning the schools first PCSC championship. Head coach Kathy Strahan was named PCSC Coach of the Year.

"It was a culmination of a couple things, we had a lot of juniors and seniors, and we had outstanding leadership out of both of those classes," coach Strahan said.

If you want to know what the softball team's goal is for next season, all you have to do is look at coach Strahan's computer and you'll see a picture she took of last year's NCAA Regional bracket showing Sac State. It's a daily remainder of where they were last year and where they want to be this year. Th e team is return ing 14 players from last season, including the league's player of the year Jamie Schloredt.

In tennis and track and field, the women were not the only ones to shine as both men's and women's tennis and indoor and outdoor track teams won conference championships.

Th e women's tennis team continued its dominance over the Big Sky Conference as it won its seventh-consecutive championship. Th e team has not lost a Big Sky match since 2002.

Katrina Zheltova was named Big Sky's MVP for the second straight year, and with her second round win in the NCAA Tournament, Zheltova gained All-American status. According to Bill Campbell, director of tennis, this year's team will be the "women's best team ever." On the other side, the men's tennis team won the Big Sky regular season title. Campbell also says that the men's team will be 50 percent better this year, as Sacramento signed one of the top recruits.

Th e women's indoor track team had its best finish ever. Prior to this season, its highest finish was fifth place, last season it won the conference title. Also, the women's indoor and outdoor team made history as both teams won conference titles. Th e men's indoor track team won a conference title, but the outdoor team fell six points short of winning the outdoor title. In all the track and field team had a great year.

"Our freshmen were exceptional, they competed like seniors," Director of Track and Field and Cross Country Kathleen Raske said.

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*Contact Felipe Molina in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.*


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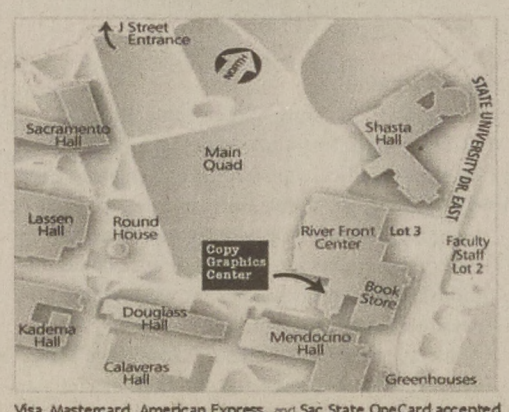


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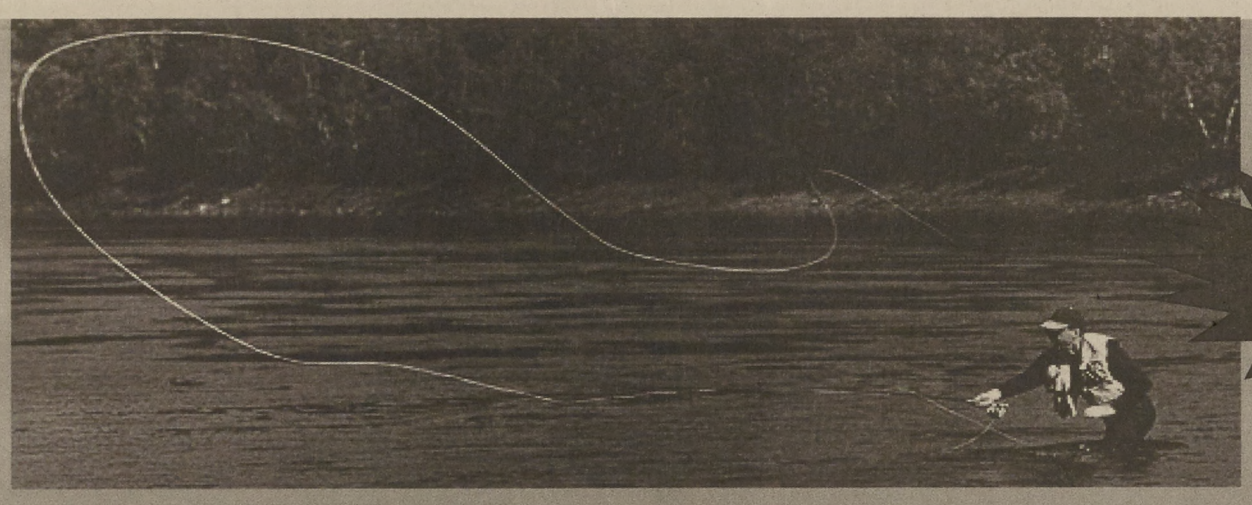

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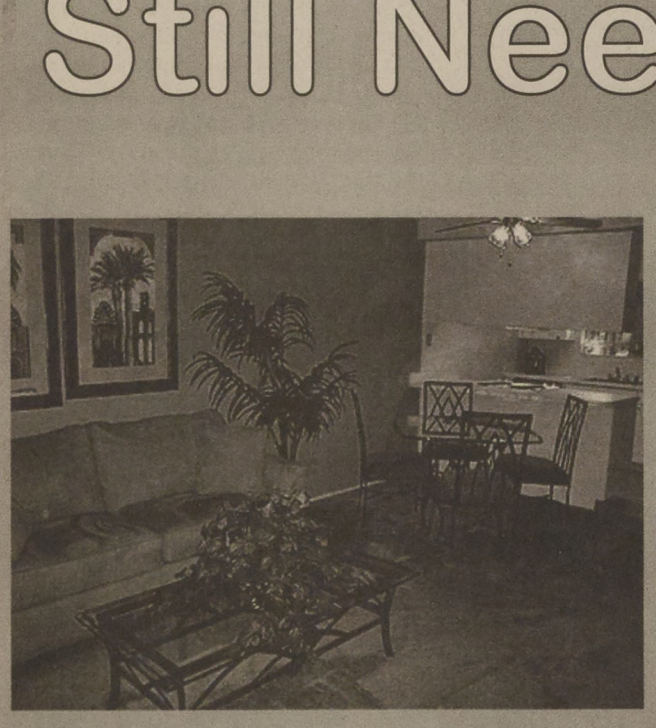

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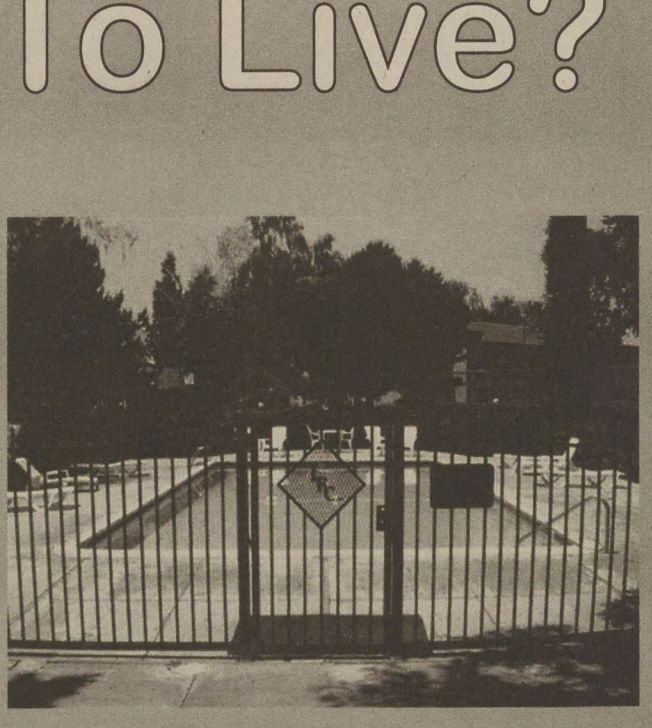

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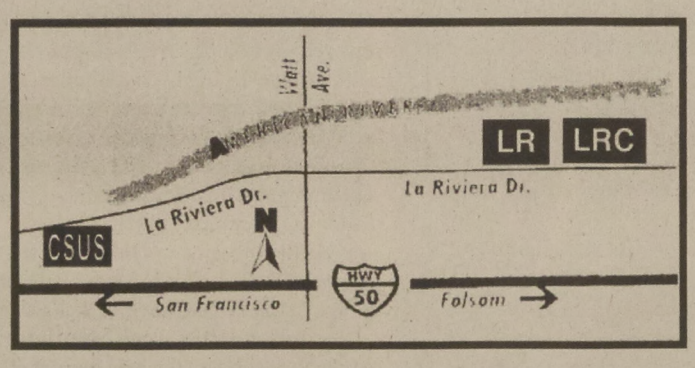


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**I'm glad that we all went through an exciting baseball season without any BALCO or steroid drama...I can say that we went through a relatively "cleansed" baseball season.**

# Column: Postseason without pinstripes may be a possibility

Continued | page B1

in the entire MLB. What's nice about the Devil Rays is that the team is young and upcoming and only one player from the Rays, Evan Longoria, made it to the All-Star game. Give them a year or two and they will be dominating the A.L.

Just behind the Devil Rays for the wild card spot in the A.L. are the Boston Red Sox. Th eir offense has definitely weakened a bit with the departure of their disgruntled slugger Manny Ramirez, but the Red Sox are still managing to hang on to their 4th place spot in the playoff race.

OK, so after managing to write a whole paragraph about Red Sox without bashing them, let me talk a little about my favorite team, rivals of the Red Sox. Yes that's right, I have supported my New York Yankees ever since I was a small kid back when I still lived in New York (I was born there actually). When Yahoo sports columnist Jeff Passan said "Th e New York Yankees are dead," I thought about writing some nasty comments to him, but then I realized that sometimes great things have to come to an end. Although I don't think my Yankees are dead yet, they're getting there.

One big factor of the Yankees' downward spiral this season was their lack of pitching. Th e two pitchers who are still doing decent, veterans Mike Mussina and Mariano Rivera are continuing to rack up the years in the age column. Th e injuries to Joba Chamberlain and their top pitcher Chien-Ming Wang really put a big hole in their pitching rotation. Th e acquiring of outfielder Xavier Nady and all-star catcher and future hall-of-famer Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez did create some excitement amongst avid fans, but they still need more to gain ground in the playoff race. Th ey are still a few games behind the Red Sox for the wild card spot.

Others can say that the departure of Joe Torre was did the Yankees in, but I beg to differ. To me, Torre lost that desire to win that he had back in the late 90s. I mean, I still think he was a great manager and helped guide the Yankees to multiple World Series a few years back, but those days are long gone unfortunately. Th e Dodgers can have him though, plus Hollywood would be a nice place for him to retire at anyway.

Oh well, I can always jump on the bandwagon and support the New York Mets on the other side of town. I mean, they are leading their division in the N.L. East and have a good chance of keeping that lead. Newly acquired star pitcher Johan Santana has proved to be a factor in their success by leading the team in wins and strikeouts and maintaining an impressively low ERA of 2.63. Carlo Delgado and David Wright continue to bring home the runs along with José Reyes' .301 batting average.

Other teams that are fairing well include the Arizona Diamondbacks leading the N.L. west and the Chicago White Sox leading the A.L. central. Th e Minnesota Twins are hanging in there only a half game behind the Red Sox for the wild card spot. I predict a tight race for playoff spots in the second half of September, and don't worry, my Yankees will be in the running too.

So, the playoff outlook? I'd say the current division leaders and wild card teams will keep their spots and move forward. Th ere will probably be a showdown between the Angels and the Devil Rays for the A.L. pennant. Don't count out the White Sox though, but count out them Red Sox. No, I'm not saying this because I like the Yankees, but I don't think Boston has enough firepower to go all the way to the World Series. Over in the N.L. I predict the Mets and the Cubs will be battling it out for the N.L. pennant.

As far as World Series predictions go, I'm pretty open to whoever makes. I do think there's a chance of us seeing a Windy City series in Chicago, which would be cool. Th e Cubs would then have a chance to end their wicked and depressing drought and bring home the World Series title.

For now, I would like to say that the Yankees can still make the playoffs, but I shouldn't get my hopes up too high. I will still continue to support them, but whatever happens, happens. It would have been nice if they had the playoffs secure one last time during their final season at the original Yankee Stadium, but then again, maybe once they move to the new Yankee Stadium, they will be renewed and a totally different team. Hey, dreams can still come true.

*Contact Nick Hunte in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.*

# Football: QB Smith looks solid

Continued | page B1

I'm originally from San Francisco, so I feel like back home. It's nice up here in the City of Trees," said Bethel-Th ompson.

Bethel-Th ompson says the difference between UCLA and Sac State is that they're on different levels

"UCLA is very established and has a lot of money and Sac State is more up and coming and is still establishing the program. We're definitely building something here," said Bethel-Th ompson.

He seems to be ready to lead the team to victory this season and is finding his place in the team very well. "I play to win and this team is ready to win. We have great players and we've become a close team."

Jason Smith, who is also a quarterback, is already getting good vibes from Bethel-Th ompson and sees the dedication and determination inside him.

"Mcleod is very competitive and smart," said Smith. "He plays his hardest every day."

Th is season he said he will try to focus on the play book and make it second nature to him.

"I just need to keep learning the playbook and when it gets to Saturday it will be automatic for me. Once you start thinking about it, that's when mistakes start to happen," Bethel-Th ompson said.

Smith, who is a sophomore, was our starting quarterback last season until he injured his back in the weight room and missed spring training.

Sperbeck said, "He was here mentally".

His recovery has gone well though and will be able to play in the first game of the season, according to Sperbeck.

**Claire Padgett** State Hornet

**Head football coach Marshall Sperbeck speaks to the team after practice on Aug. 21.**

"I've been going to therapy since the injury and resting. So, my back has healed up good," said Smith.

Smith said the team has come a long way since last year and is ready for a great season. "I'm just focusing on the practices. Physically, everyone is there; we just got to get there mentally as a team."

He mentioned that he is preparing for the first game as well by getting in the mind set of leading the team and playing better than last year.

"I need to make good decisions during the games and manage the team to help the Hornets win. We've made great strides from last year and have high expectations for this season."

Smith encourages the students to come out and watch their fellow players next Saturday.

"Come out and support us, it'll be exciting. Support your school," Smith said.

Sperbeck has not decided who will be the starting quarterback for this season yet because both quarterbacks are very talented. Our third string quarterback for this season will be Duncan White, from Lake Oswego, Ore.

"Th e competition is still open. Whichever one wins the job, the other needs to be prepared to play. Like any job, they need to earn it," said Sperbeck.

Both quarterbacks are taking the competition seriously and the coach has a hard decision ahead of him.

"We're both somewhat the same person because we both show up every day to better ourselves and each other," said Smith.

Th e players have been working with both quarter backs during training to help them prepare for the game.

"Th e players just want the best guy that's capable of leading the team and has the best results. Th e guy that performs the best is the one they will support," stated Sperbeck.

With a new focus and new players, this team has a lot of talent and skill to work with this season.

"We offer explosiveness this season," Sperbeck said.

*Contact Taylor Collis in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.*

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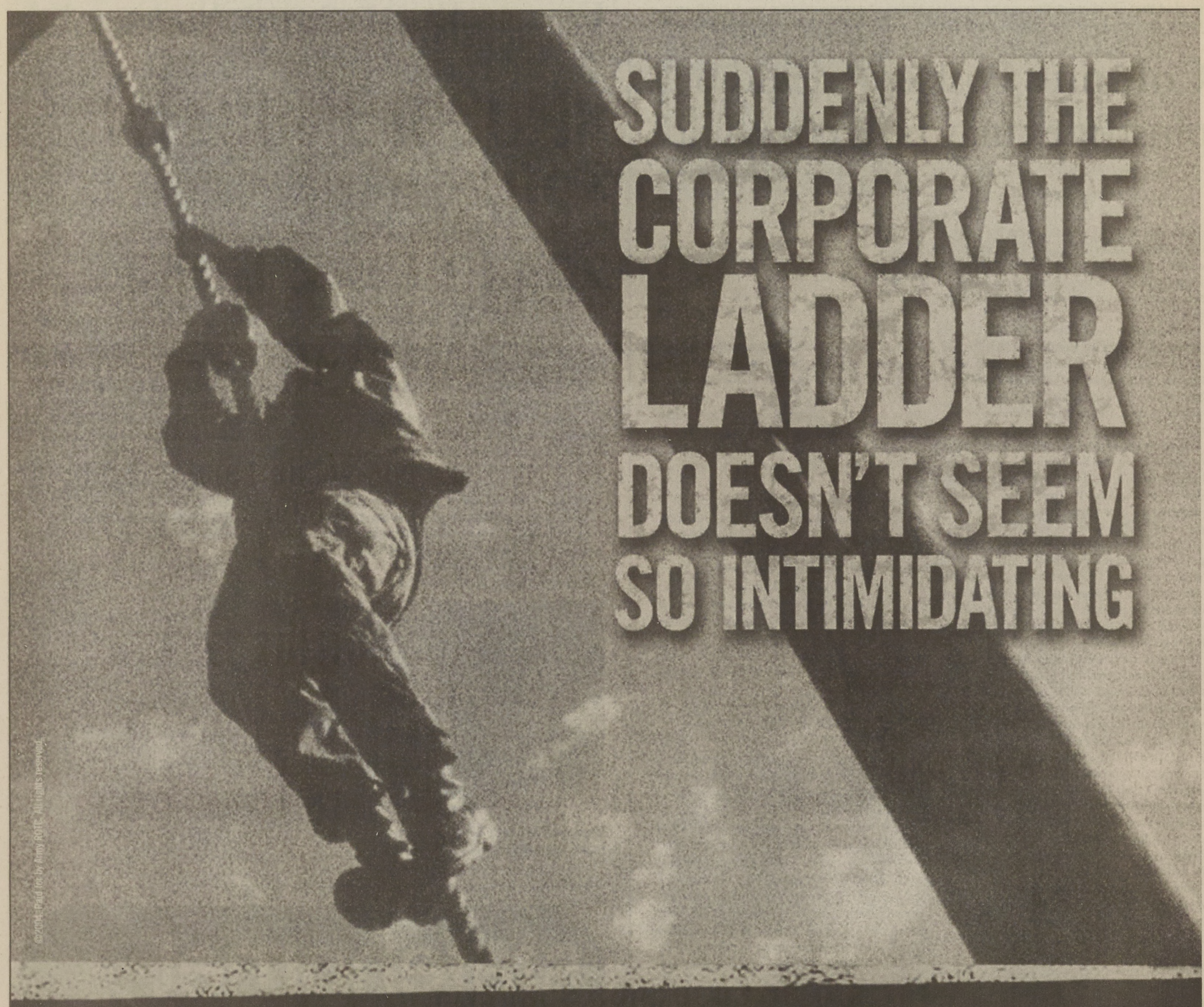


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# Volleyball: New coach, assistant lead

Continued | page B1

"This will be a rebuilding year for the program with the loss of five very talented players," Colberg said.

The Hornets lost four starters and a libero from last year's team, setting up a number of battles for starting positions. The three players almost certain of starting are senior setter Rose Burke, junior outside hitter Desiree Hoyum and sophomore middle hitter Maddison Thivierge. Senior Katie Van Der Wende will step into the vacant libero spot.

Fourth-year senior Brittany Ferguson is the front runner to play on the right side, with a number of players also competing for the spot. Should Volta decide to run a 6-2 offense, junior setter Melissa Melcher and Burke will take up the setter positions. If the Hornets employ a traditional 5-1 offense, Melcher will play the right back defensive position, as could newcomer Breanne Menees.

In fact, the Hornets' only returning player starting at the same position is Burke. Every other starting position on the floor featured a player that has yet to start more than eight matches in their particular position during the length of their Hornet career.

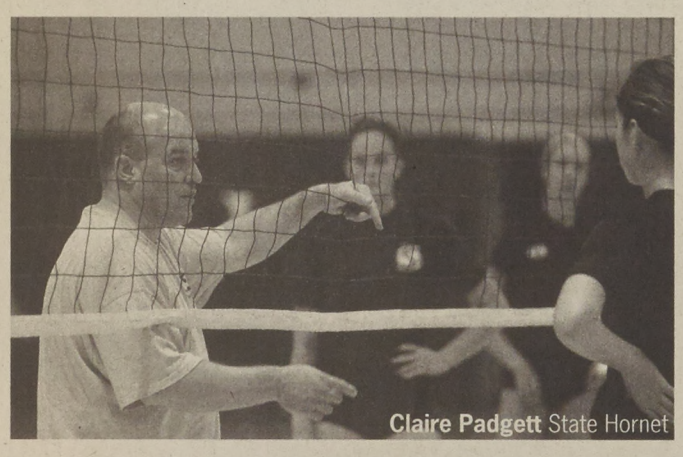
"The new girls are going to have to look to me to show them the kind of volleyball that Sac State's known for," Burke said. "And they're stepping up to a huge role because this team is expected to do really good things."

This season will also introduce Volta's new assistant coach Sarah Chlebana as the team's recruiting coordinator. Chlebana, a Sac State graduate, played Hornet volleyball from 1997-2000. She is one of only nine players who, in the history of the school, have accumulated 1,000 career kills and digs.

"I am very excited to have Sarah join our coaching staff," Volta said. "She brings four years of experience coaching at the collegiate level which will be invaluable in helping our program continue to move forward."

At Colberg's retirement party, it was announced that the floor of the Hornet gymnasium would be renamed in her honor.

"I am just totally honored and appreciative of such a special gesture from the university," she said. "I did see the floor the other day and it seems a little strange to see my name along the sideline - just very, very special."



Claire Padgett State Hornet

New head coach Ruben Volta assigns positions during practice.

*Contact Chris Neuschaffer in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.*

# Soccer: New prospects offer innovation, heart

Continued | page B1

Spirits '91, she helped her team to a second place finish at the California Cup and a first place finish at the Portland Cup.

"One of my goals this season is to improve my shot selections and enhance my 1-on-1 skills," Gregory said.

Caitlin Pulver looks to add versatility to the Sac State's midfield and attacking force. Pulver has impressive credentials coming into her freshman year, as she was named first team All-Sierra Foothill League multiple seasons throughout her Roseville HS career. The Sacramento Bee has even featured her on honorable mention for All-Metro. She also hones her skills while playing club soccer for Placer United Prestige '91, where she tallied 46 goals and 32 assists during the 2006 campaign.

"I am looking to help the team with good technical skill and hopefully add creativity to the attack," Pulver said.

Victoria Ramirez is seeking to become an ultimate team player for the SacState women's team. A midfielder hailing from Valley High School, she brings high school and club experience as well. She contributed to Valley High School and excelled playing for the Sacramento United Spitfire. Ramirez will bring the necessary toughness and vision to hold a stable midfield for the team, and if required, challenge defenses with her craftiness and transition skills.

Sac State also will get even more versatility with the incoming freshman Paige Tucker. A player who can virtually play any position on the pitch, she is bound to cause problems for any team. She was impressive at Folsom High School, notching 19 goals and supplying seven assists in the Delta River League, where she had no troubles playing either defense or attacker. Tucker also played her club soccer for the San Juan Spirits '90. She will offer Sac State tough physical presence anywhere she plays.

"A big goal for myself is to make the traveling team, and to help Sac State win the Big Sky again," Tucker said.

Jordan Carlberg is looking forward to adding speed and pace to the team. An incoming freshman from Turlock High School, she also has built impressive credentials. During her senior campaign, Carlberg celebrated 105 goals and assisted on 42 more throughout her four years. Carlberg was also crowned the Central California Conference MVP in 2007. She was also honed her craft at San Juan Spirits.

"My main goal for the year is to earn playing time and really help the team in any way possible," Carlberg said. "I feel I can really bring a lot of speed and pace to the team."

Lastly, Sac State is adding even more talent into its attack force with Elece McBride. The incoming freshman from Oakmont High School was named an All-Leaguer Performer every year of her high school career, and also led her school to the Division III Sac-Joaquin Section Title in 2005 with the crucial game winning goal. Also earning First Team All-Metro honors from the Sacramento Bee, and that's not excluding one MVP season, and a perfect 12-0 record. With a bagful of credentials, McBride feels her great first touch and awesome technical skill on the ball can help the team.

"My biggest goal for my first season here is just to offer all the support I can to the team and my teammates," McBride said.

*Contact Ronnie Nurss in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.*

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THE STATE HORNET
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statehornet.com

# Sac State student crowned Miss CA

By Amanda Pollard
apollard@statehornet.com

Her family and friends would agree that the reigning Miss California, 23-year-old Jackie Geist, is still the same girl she has always been.

Despite working, making appearances every weekend, attending college, and preparing for the biggest moment of her life, the future Miss America pageant contestant remains the small town girl everyone knows and loves.

This past June, Geist competed for the second time in the Miss California pageant. The only difference this time was instead of failing to place in any category, Geist won each of her preliminary rounds and walked away with the title of Miss California.

Geist is a junior at Sacramento State majoring in business finance. She is originally from Vacaville and attended Solano Community College before attending Sac State.

Upon receiving her title, Geist was required to participate in the TLC television reality show that follows all Miss America contestants around for the three weeks before the Miss America pageant.

"I was skeptical at first," said Geist. "They had a meeting for the contestants though and assured us this won't be a typical reality show. They won't be trying to start fights and cause drama - they want to portray us in the light of who we are…the point of the show is to relate Miss America to people our age."

The upcoming reality show is not the only thing on Geist's plate right now. This summer she is attending Sac State for summer school, working at Washington Mutual, and traveled across the country promoting her title of Miss California.

Geist replied with a laugh when she is asked how her life has changed since being crowned Miss California.

"I don't sleep! I basically live out of a suitcase, or actually a couple."

In addition to her traveling, Geist receives opportunities unique to that of a pageant queen. Recently she was flown to Arkansas for a photo shoot with an evening gown designer.

"He only picked three of the contestants to do it; it was a huge honor. This is still something I get excited about on a daily basis," said Geist.

Throughout the conversation it was impossible to find a negative tone in her voice. Those closest to her know that this is something she has exuded since she was a child.

Heidi LuMaye, Geist's dance instructor, said she is captivating and unique, but still relatable to many people.

"People idolize her goals and skill level and ways of balancing life, but she can still sit down and talk to a 5-year-old," LuMaye said. "She doesn't have to work at being that person, that's just who Jackie is."

Who she is is precisely what Geist is trying to show the world. Her mother, Suzanne Geist, said from a very young age Geist was passionate about all the same things she is now.

"Jackie used to get excited when the mailman came with her bank statement. She wanted to see her interest. She caught on early that the bank was paying her to put more money in. She would collect cans and other things, anything to put money in the bank," Suzanne said.

Geist's childhood passion for saving has carried over into her current pageant platform, "Saving for the Future."

"I work at Washington Mutual and the program in conjunction with WAMU money lessons. Depending on their age level we teach them what money is, why it's important to save and about credit and investments," Geist said.

Geist believes her title allows her message to reach a greater number of people, and regardless of the outcome of the Miss America pageant she said she plans on partnering with a nationwide organization in order to reach more young people

see **Pageant** | page B9

**Graphic by Martin Wood** State Hornet

Courtesy Photo

**During the talent portion of the pageant Geist performs "the Dying Swan" from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake."**

Courtesy Photo

**After walking away empty-handed at last year's pageant, Geist receives her crown and the title of Miss California.**

**STUDENT ART EXHIBIT**
**SEE B8 FOR THE FULL STORY**

**Claire Padgett** State Hornet

**Rebecca Crowther with her first piece of found art for her gallery.**

# Salsa Loca's dance club heats it all up

By Kyrie Eberhart
keberhart@statehornet.com

Few people can watch the fantastic choreography in movies like 2006's Take the Lead or ABC's reality show Dancing with the Stars, and not think, "I'd kill to dance like that!" This is usually followed shortly by, "But I don't have the time" or, "the only people who go to learn are middle-aged couples," and my personal favorite: "I dance like a drunken chicken."

However, before you dismiss the opportunity as impossible and chow down on potato chips instead, know there is hope for students who truly have the desire to dance right here on campus with Sacramento State's Salsa Loca Club.

The club started in April 2007 when a group of students who had been learning ballroom dancing wanted to be taught more specific dances rather than a few steps to many different dances. However, with specialized dance classes targeting college students being almost impossible to find, these students did the next best thing: they started their own class.

"It's an opportunity to be involved with no strings attached," senior Felix Barba, Salsa Loca's club president said. "We tolerate a welcoming environment for everyone."

And it must be working. Almost a year and a half later, the participation count numbers up to 60 people, who are taught not only the salsa, but a few other Latin dances including the cha-cha and the merengue.

Don't have any dance experience? Barba said that's not a problem

"If you can talk, you can sing; if you can walk, you can dance," Barba said.

The statement has become a kind of unoffi cial motto for the club. Many of the members had little or no experience before stepping onto the dance floor.

"In my personal experience, I did not know how to dance salsa when the club

see **Salsa** | page B9

**"The most painful thing was watching her lose control over her whole body. She was a control freak, so it was really hard for her."**

**Nick Trujillo,** communication studies professor and author

# Professor turns loss into love story

By Vanessa Johnson
vjohnson@statehornet.com

Nick Trujillo a communications studies professor at Sacramento State never thought he would have to bathe and feed his wife of 19 and a half years. That at all changed on October 19, 2003 when his wife, Leah Vande Berg, a fellow communication studies professor was diagnosed with ovarian caner.

Trujillo said his wife was going to see the doctor for what she thought was a mere bladder infection. On December 13, 2004 Trujillo's wife died from ovarian cancer. Four days later she was cremated, her remains scattered in 10 different locations including the alumni grove at Sac State. He said over 300 people attended her funeral including fellow teachers and students.

Being a communication studies professor Trujillo, 52, decided that during his wife's struggle through cancer treatment he needed an outlet to deal with his emotions and fears.

His outlet became a book entitled "Cancer and Death; A Love Story." The book chronicles his and his wife's experiences from her diagnosis to her death. Trujillo said he wanted to teach people about cancer by writing this book from both his and his wife's perspectives.

"I wanted to let people know how to live with a terminal illness and die with dignity," Trujillo said.

While he wrote, his wife projected her story through 15, 90-minute audio tapes, which Trujillo then listened to and transcribed. Trujillo said that his writing became a means of therapy for him, allowing himself to express what he was feeling inside. Feelings like he and his wife's fear of her being no longer able to walk. He said Vande Berg was afraid of falling.

see **Book** | page B9

Courtesy Photo

**Nick Trujillo and Leah Vande Berg on their wedding day. Vande Berg died of ovarian cancer on Dec. 13, 2004.**

# Photo gallery showcases sentiment, love

By Casey Kirk
ckirk@statehornet.com

After visiting Sacramento State graduate student Rebecca Crowther's art exhibit, one will never look at their photographs and keepsakes the same again.

"Often times, the best music, stories or films are the ones that hit us in the gut emotionally," Crowther said. "I hope to pull at this emotion some."

Graduating this fall with a special major master's degree in art history and photography, Crowther is bidding a final adieu to the campus with a unique show that will combine her appreciation of art and history in a unique two-part exhibit. Her talents will be on display for the public to see at Sac State's Witt Ridley Gallery in "This Here Love Hey, It's A Gonna Last/ The Backs of Photographs." It is not only a mouthful, but promises to be a mind-full as well.

Chris Prout, senior art history major, said he is planning on attending Crowther's exhibit.

"The exhibit should be very thought-provoking. I'm looking forward to the room with the photographs to see what stories the photos will invoke from my own life," he said.

In her M.A. exhibition, Crowther said she will create an almost romantic appreciation for the mementos we all hang onto: photographs, childrens' drawings and snippets of hair, among other unique pieces.

"Everything in the exhibit is historical as well as sentimental," Crowther explained. "Throughout life, we create things, objects, drawings and photographs in an attempt to document and preserve our lives… in a way we remain alive as long as a trace of us can be found in an image or a drawing."

In the gallery's entry room there will be a collection of items that Crowther said will symbolize life from birth to death, aimed to stir up feelings of nostalgia. Crowther has collected objects that everyone can relate to from various places, such as antique shops and thrift stores.

The second part of the exhibit, located in the main room of the gallery, will feature a series of backwards photographs in cases. The 17 photographs are from different periods in time, from the late 1800s to the late 1950s.

Mirrors placed behind the photos will give the audience a glimpse of the subjects. There will also be hand-written messages by Crowther on the backs of the photos, referencing "immortality, preservation, and things that remain."

Viewers will be given the opportunity to draw from their own feelings and memories while connecting to the subjects of the photos.

The life and death of family she's lost and nostalgia are some of the main themes that Crowther said has influenced her work for the exhibit, but said she draws on many different sources to inspire her art.

"Love inspires me more than anything, and by this I do not mean romantic love. I mean looking at what is ugly in the world and finding the beauty in it and loving it," she said.

While studying art at Sac State, Crowther said one professor has stood out among the rest and inspired her. Crowther said art professor Elaine O'Brien taught her to "trust in the relevance of my own beliefs, and to trust that what I have to say is important."

Crowther said O'Brien has always placed high expectations on her students, but those expectations have given her tremendous respect for her professor and said she has developed a strong work ethic because of it.

O'Brien returns the adoration of Crowther's work.

"Rebecca's master's exhibition comes out of a great deal of reading, looking and thinking about photographs and what they mean to us. She has a unique way of observing the way we perform our lives: comic, ironic and skeptical, but with a lot of warmth and compassion," O'Brien said.

Claire Padgett State Hornet

**Rebecca Crowther searches a store on Antique Row for handmade pictures and paintings for her installation of found art.**

Crowther will continue to exercise this work ethic and her passion for art and history after graduating. In October, she will help to curate an exhibit with the Sacramento Archives about the 1968 presidential election. She is also planning a series of drawings based on records from mental institutions in the 19th century.

"This Here Love Hey, It's A Gonna Last/ The Backs of Photographs" is free to students and the public. Crowther said she hopes that students from outside the art department will visit

The exhibit will run Sept. 8 through Sept. 12.

*Contact Casey Kirk in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.*

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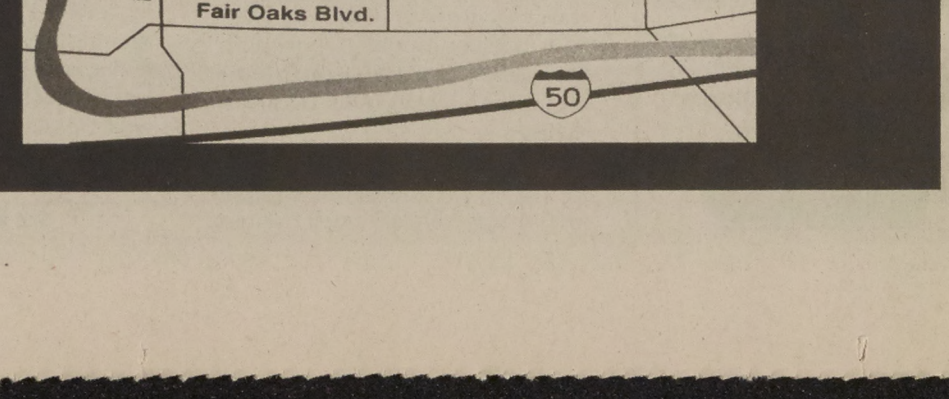

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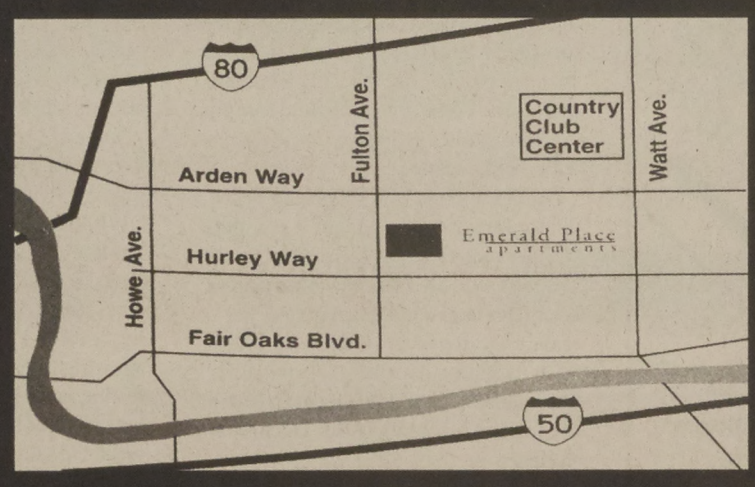


**"We are down to earth, everyday girls just trying to do something positive with our lives."**

**Jackie Geist,** Miss California

# Pageant: Preparing for TV show

Continued | page B7

with this message.

Her mother believes regardless of her title, Geist would still be continuing on the path she is currently traveling.

"She knows where she is going with her education and career, she is majoring in finance and I think regardless of her title she would carry this message," said her mother.

Other than her title, and the amount of time she spends at home, those closest to her don't believe she has changed very much at all.

Childhood friend Cassandra Eifert, who has danced with Geist from a very young age, said she has always been "a very mature and sweet girl."

"Everyone has a stereotype of the pageant girl - Jackie completely breaks that. You watch shows and think 'God these people must be missing a screw,' but Jackie has been doing pageants a long time and it has never changed her," Eifert said.

Eifert has been dancing with Geist at the Vacaville Ballet Academy since 1995 and knows better than anyone about her talent.

From a very young age Geist recognized her passion for ballet.

"I remember going to pick up my sister from dance class," Geist said. "I saw a girl on Pointe and I said 'Mom I want those!' she told me I couldn't just have them, I had to earn them."

And earn them she did.

This past March Geist broke her foot, only three months before she was set to compete in the Miss California pageant, with her talent being ballet dancing on Pointe. After being off her broken foot for weeks Geist was allowed to begin walking on the treadmill in late May. She was able to begin dancing again on June first, which left her only 19 days until she would perform in the Miss California pageant.

"After I broke my foot my dad brought over a huge mirror and hung it on my wall so even though I couldn't dance I could work on all my upper body movement. My piece is a lot of upper body movements, which I wouldn't have focused so much on otherwise, so it was a blessing in disguise," she said.

Geist is still unsure of her chances in the Miss America pageant, but feels that all she can do is prepare and do the best she can.

Geist is eager to show the world how relatable the contestants in the Miss America pageant are.

"The huge goal right now is becoming more relatable to our generation. I would love so much for everyone to tune in and see what this is about. We are down to earth, everyday girls just trying to do something positive with our lives."

*Contact Amanda Pollard in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.*

# Book: Part of all profits will go to ovarian cancer foundation

Continued | page B7

"The most painful thing was watching her loose control over her whole body," he said. "She was a control freak, so it was really hard for her."

Trujillo said the main thing he wanted people to know was that ovarian cancer, while terrible, is not something you have to go through alone.

"Our culture tends to not talk about death or grief," he said. "(The book talks about) what people go through, how horrible this disease is and that you can do it,"

His book has touched the lives of many including Kimo AhYun, a colleague and friend of Trujillo and Vande Berg.

AhYun, an assistant communication studies professor is mentioned in Trujillo's book. AhYun said that, in his opinion, the book depicts the importance of personal connections.

"It gives you a greater appreciation for the relationship you have with people, especially Leah, and the role she had with her family," AhYun said. "You aren't sure what is going to happen in life."

AhYun said the book not only helped Trujillo get through the passing of his wife, but gave him an understanding on how to deal with incidents such as these.

"There are a lot of resources out there that explain how to deal, but I think this book gives the license to say there are many ways to cope with (cancer)," he said.

Ah Yun described Vande Berg as "passionate, determined and wickedly intelligent."

Kirsten Vann, a Sac State graduate, said the book was detailed and honest. Having had both of her grandparents die of cancer, she said she could connect with the book.

"When you see it from anther's perspective it is definitely brutally honest," Vann said. "I experienced it and anyone who feels for others experiences will know that it is very honest."

Although Vande Berg passed away in December of 2004 that is not when Trujillo completed his book.

He said he wanted to end the book when he was actually ready to do so. So he waited to be in a state of happiness to show readers that life goes on. Trujillo waited a whole year to write the last chapter. The book was finally published on July of this year through Hampton Press. Trujillo said that his book sales are "doing well" and part of the funds from the book are donated to the National Ovarian Cancer Foundation Coalition. "Cancer and Death; A Love Story" can be purchased through HamptonPress.com. There is also a scholarship program for Graduate Communication Studies students in Vande Berg's name.

"This (book) is perfect for a widow or widower to show that there is light at the end of the tunnel," Trujillo said. "I survived this...I am stronger and I feel like I can do anything."

*Contact Vanessa Johnson in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.*

**Claire Padgett** State Hornet

**Communication studies professor Nick Trujillo playing a song at Alumni Grove on Aug. 19 entitled "Leah" that he wrote for his late wife.**

# Salsa: Dance moves for everyone from newbies to professional alike

Continued | page B7

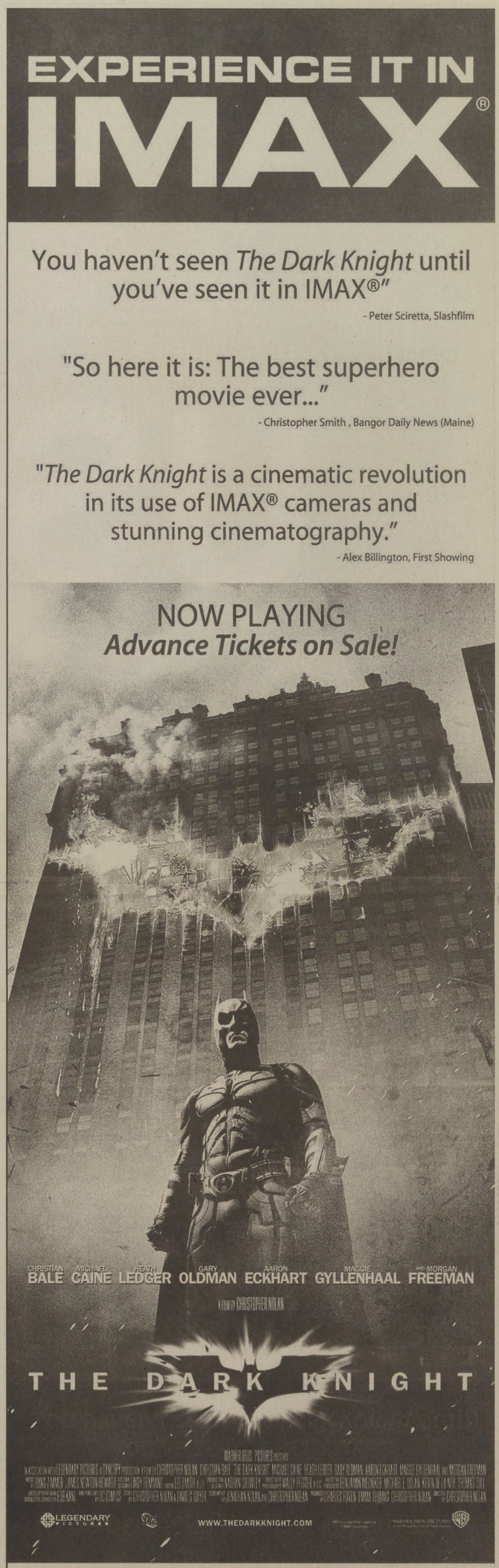
was founded and now I am one of the salsa instructors," club treasurer Bernardo Mendoza-Lopez said.

Stanley Sasaki, promotions worker and member of Salsa Loca said he believes students should just try it out.

"I believe that not just students, but anyone in the school should participate in Salsa Loca Club, because it is a great way to meet people, and learn a little bit of dancing never hurt anyone," Sasaki said.

The club's first meeting is 7:30 p.m. today in the University Union's Red Room.

*Contact Kyrie Eberhart in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.*

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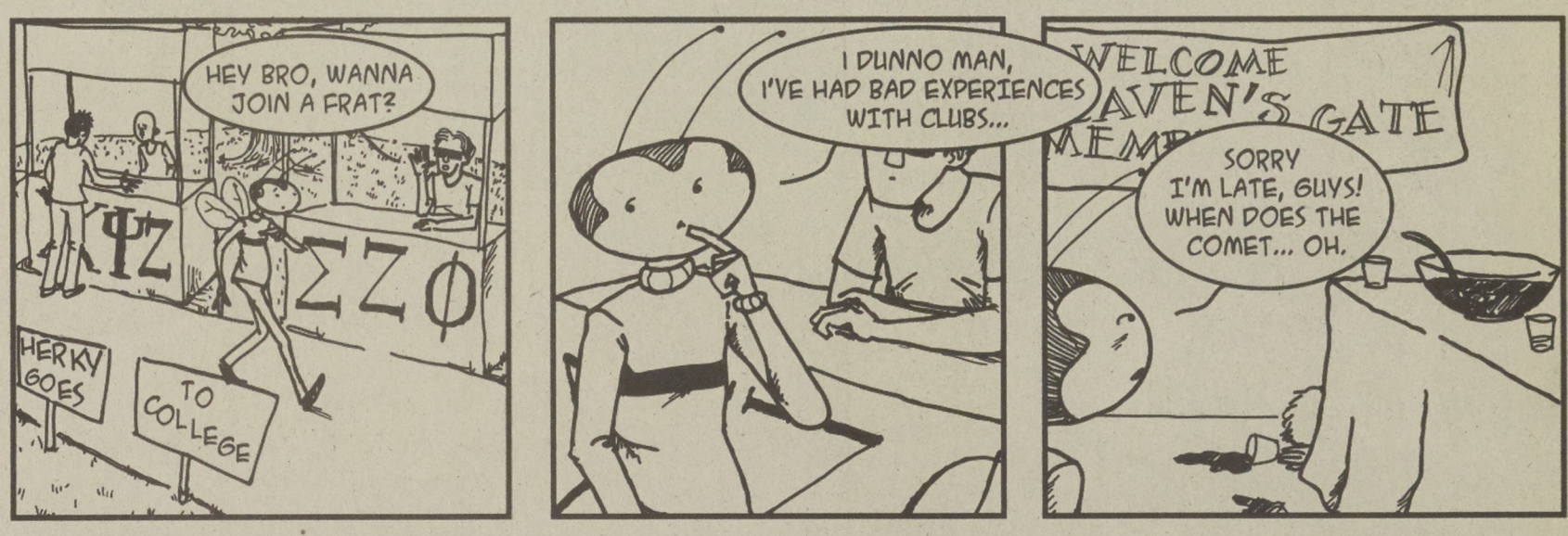


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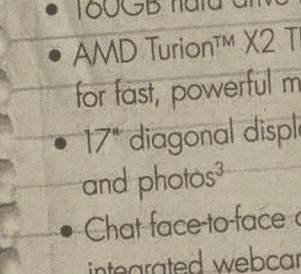

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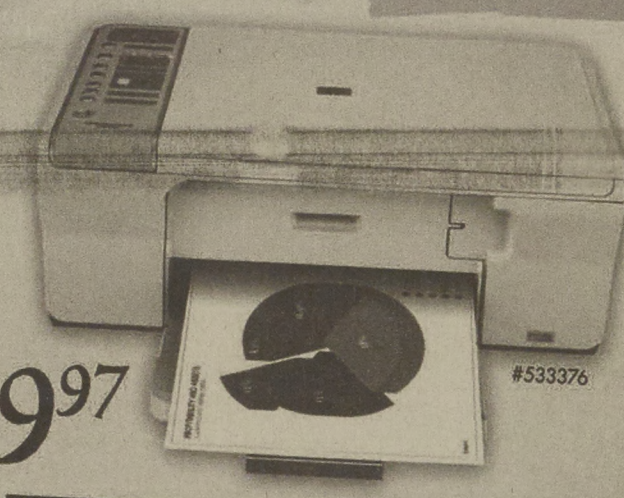

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